

# THE TIMES

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## Major seeks new grammar school era

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND DAVID CHARTER



Shephard: "on a radical scale of 1-6, she scores 2"

parent reluctance to embrace the grammar ethos. "She's not being radical enough. On a scale of 1-6, I'd score her at about 2," one minister said. An application from Buckinghamshire County Council to build a new grammar school alongside the comprehensives of Milton Keynes has been sitting on the Education Secretary's desk for months.

Tory strategists said that the proposals, which are likely to figure in the Conservative manifesto, were the latest in a series of initiatives to inject greater choice and variety into the state system and to improve standards.

John Major's interest in grammar schools has been stimulated by the Harriet Harman affair. The Prime Minister and his advisers believe that the reaction to the Shadow Health Secretary's decision to send her son to a selective school showed that the public is still wedded to the idea of grammar schools, thirty years after the switch to comprehensive education.

With David Blunkett, the shadow Education Secretary, also admitting that comprehensives have not lived up to expectations, the Prime Minister sees an opportunity to seize the political initiative over education. Labour's sensitivity over the issue was highlighted again yesterday when Mr Blunkett played down the threat to the remaining 161 grammar schools, saying he did not want the next Labour government "tied up" over selection. His party's policy is not to abolish grammar schools, but to let parents vote on their future.

The Downing Street proposals are attracting strong support in the Cabinet, where some ministers are impatient with Gillian Shephard's ap-

reement to become selective, to concentrate on specific subjects or to specialise in technical or vocational education. Although 1,000 state schools have opted to become grant-maintained, the momentum has slowed in the past couple of years and ministers see the latest idea as a way of boosting the movement.

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Girl of 13 suffered multiple organ failure, spent six weeks on ventilator and had toes amputated

## Meningitis victim home after five months in hospital

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL of 13 who spent five months in intensive care after contracting meningitis will return to school tomorrow for the first time since last September.

Michelle Aucott, from Nuneaton, was given a one-in-a-hundred chance of survival when she was taken to the intensive-care unit of Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, on September 14. She was suffering from meningococcal septicaemia, a complication of meningitis in which the bacterial infection is spread through the body by the

bloodstream, causing a sharp drop in blood pressure and multiple organ failure.

She lapsed into a coma, her kidneys ceased to function and she was on a ventilator for six weeks. Large areas of her skin disintegrated as the blood supply failed and she had to have her toes amputated. However, doctors were particularly concerned to save her fingers as she is an accomplished musician who plays saxophone with a local band. She was in intensive care until last month.

Richard Matthews, a con-

sultant plastic surgeon who performed extensive skin grafts, said: "For six to eight weeks she was critically ill and thereafter she could have been blown off course for a very considerable time. She was so ill we did not dare operate on her to start with. Meningitis has been such a scourge in people's minds and here's one who survived. She's such an ebullient kid."

Michelle's mother, Diane, 36, from Stockingford, Warwickshire, said: "On the day Michelle was admitted the consultant said there was a very distinct possibility she would die. Five months later, as we were coming home, he said to us: 'There's only one acceptable outcome, isn't there, and this is it.' I think that's right."

Mrs Aucott said that at the height of her illness Michelle had a septic rash covering most of her body. "It was purple at first and then it went black. Her fingers were black and very swollen and it looked as if the blood supply to them was failing. That worried us most because her music is her main love."

When surgeons decided her toes could not be saved, they promised they would not dam-



Michelle Aucott with her mother yesterday. Surgeons promised they would save her fingers so she could continue to play the saxophone

age her hands. "They told her she would be able to stand and walk and would have her fingers to play her saxophone," Mrs Aucott said. "She's a fighter, she's stubborn and she's very strong-willed."

Michelle required skin grafts to 20 per cent of her body but there were few areas from which to take healthy

skin. Surgeons employed a technique in which healthy skin taken from her thighs was sliced into a net and stretched to make it go further. The graft has taken and new skin is growing to fill the net.

Mrs Aucott said: "She is trying to walk and she can manage a few steps on her own. You can see the pain on

her face but she is determined to get back to normality."

After five months in which everything was done for Michelle in hospital, Mrs Aucott said she was frightened when she came home. She and her husband, Terry, 40, a sheet metal worker, have two other children aged 12 and 9.

"I had had the back-up of all

the staff watching Michelle and making sure she was OK," Mrs Aucott said. "Now I've got that responsibility. The staff on the intensive-care unit got very close to her. They did everything for her, nothing was too much trouble. I think they think she's a courageous lady."

Yesterday Michelle said: "I

am still really sorry but I don't think about what happened. I concentrate on getting better." She said her feet were painful but she was relieved that her hands were unaffected. "I would rather lose my toes than my fingers."

Was she looking forward to school? "I'm a bit nervous — but it's boring at home."

## Deaths on increase

CASES of meningococcal meningitis increased by more than a third last year to their highest total for six years. There were 1,827 cases, 483 more than in 1994, and 185 deaths.

One in ten of the population carry the meningococcal bacteria in their throats at any one time and can pass it to vulnerable people by kissing or other close contact.

Meningitis occurs in two main forms, viral and bacterial. Viral meningitis is a mild, flu-like illness that requires no

special treatment. Bacterial meningitis is life-threatening and needs urgent treatment. Symptoms of meningitis are fever, severe headache, nausea and vomiting, dislike of light and a stiff neck. This is followed by drowsiness and in some cases loss of consciousness. In about half of cases there is also a blotchy red rash. Symptoms of meningococcal septicaemia are fever with vomiting, rash, cold hands and feet, rapid breathing and pains in the stomach, muscles and joints.

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## Coma man uses computer link to tell of attack

BY CAROL MIDGLEY



Geoffrey Wildsmith before the attack

Hospital for Neuro Disability in Putney, southwest London, began to show movement in his finger last month. Technicians set up a computer with a buzzer and an alphabet code to enable him to communicate.

Asked if he remembered his accident he tapped out, letter by letter, that it was not an accident but a deliberate attack. Dr Keith Andrews, the hospital's medical director, called in the police and a team led by Detective Inspector Ron Wainer visited Mr Wildsmith in the ward.

They took down his story and began re-interviewing the people questioned at the time. They have also managed to track down two others and question them.

Mr Wildsmith, a bass guitarist then aged 19, had been playing on the night of the attack with his band Rich and Famous at the Haslemere Hotel. The band had made demo tapes in London recording studios.

Police said they had not ruled out a sexual motive. The woman's body was partially clothed and torn clothing was found near by.

Police were last night trying to identify the woman, whose body was discovered in the River Ely in the Fairwater area of Cardiff by a passerby.

Detectives were awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination to establish the cause of death. The woman was in her mid-thirties and was wearing a wedding ring, engagement ring and eternity ring.

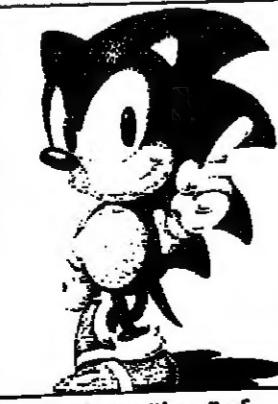
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The woman was described as 5ft 5in tall, slim with shoulder-length brown hair and brown eyes. She was wearing a brown leather flying jacket with a sheepskin lining and a diagonal zip, and a beige and green mottled cable-knit sweater.

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## Sonic the Hedgehog wins a place in cinema history

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT



SONIC the Hedgehog is to join film classics such as Charlie Chaplin's 1925 *The Gold Rush* and Abel Gance's 1927 *Napoleon* in the National Film and Television Archive.

The British Film Institute has decided that video games are an art-form that needs to be preserved for posterity. The aim is to ensure that early examples of the moving image's latest format are not lost, and to give historians of the future an insight into popular culture.

As well as Sonic, the archive will have games cartridges, discs and cassettes from the early electronic era, such as Space Invaders, to the latest virtual-reality adventures.

It is thought that 80 per cent of the films made in cinema's first 35 years have been lost. Hitchcock's 1926 silent, *The Mountain Eagle*, is among those that are feared gone forever. Jane Clarke, the BFI's assistant director, said: "We

are determined not to see early computer games disappear in the same manner as many of our early films.

"Although occasionally we are lucky enough to uncover a treasure, as happened last year when we came across film of the 1895 Derby, it is unlikely that we will ever rediscover more than a small number of lost films."

Sega, the Japanese company that produces Sonic, the biggest-selling video game in Europe, said: "We are proud that this icon has been recognised."

■ An original French poster for *Napoleon* is expected to reach about £15,000 at auction at Christie's tomorrow.

collection will allow researchers 100 years from now to learn more about the lifestyle and interests of young people in the late 20th century.

"We're interested in not losing that history. Popular culture often tells you so much about society," Ms Clarke said. Video games have also influenced films, with spin-offs such as *Super Mario Brothers*, starring Bob Hoskins, released in 1993.

She acknowledged that there may be criticism of such support for popular culture, rather than "art", but said: "When cinema started in 1895, it was in the music hall and fairgrounds. It was a popular, mass art-form. We are totally unashamed of showing something with mass appeal."

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## A letter from James Goldsmith to the Candidates and Supporters of The Referendum Party.

The Government is indicating that it is moving towards granting a referendum. That's all to the good. But it must be genuine. Obviously the Government's commitment should be unconditional and the referendum would need to be held prior to, or at the same time as, the next General Election.

But an agreement to hold a referendum only if the Cabinet decides that sterling should be absorbed into the European single currency would be an empty gesture. That decision is unlikely to be made during the life of this Government. The commitment to hold a referendum following the General Election would be of limited value because a future Government would not necessarily be bound by it.

The referendum should allow for a full debate on the sort of Europe of which Britain wants to be part. There are two principal visions of Europe.

The original plan was that the European Community would consist of a family of nations which would pool some of their sovereignty, but only where necessary and never against the will of any nation. This was set out in the White Paper when Britain joined the EU (then the EEC), in which it was stated, "There is no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty... all the countries concerned recognise that a commitment to impose a majority view in a case where one or more members consider their vital interests to be at stake would imperil the very fabric of the Community."

The other vision is that of a single European super-state into which would be fused existing European nations. This super-state would have one government, one parliament, one over-riding Court of Justice and so on. That is the Europe of Maastricht. Whether we like it or not, Maastricht has put us on "automatic pilot" towards such a single European state.

The referendum needs to ensure that people can decide which Europe they seek for Britain. The referendum on a technical aspect of the Treaty, without a full debate on the fundamental issue, would be no more than a continuation of the fudge and subterfuge which has led Britain into a European construction diametrically opposed to that which was approved during the 1975 referendum on our membership of the EU.

That is why we urge the Government not to duck the issue and not to believe that they can defuse the problem by making a hollow commitment. On the contrary, they must encourage a full, open and fair debate on the most important issue that any nation could possibly have to face.

If you wish to become a supporter of The Referendum Party please write to:

5 Galena Road, Hammersmith, London W6 0LT. Tel: 081-563 1155. Fax: 081-563 1156.

# Sheriff of Newbury takes on the treetop greens



Nicholas Blandy, left, the man charged with evicting protesters from the treetops, says the job is among his toughest. Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth, right, contends he should never have had to do it



By STEPHEN FARRELL  
AND ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS

**T**HE cost of policing the Newbury bypass protest passed £1 million this weekend, with the opposing sides remaining as entrenched in their views as when forcible evictions began two months ago. The clashes between tree-dwelling "eco-warriors" and road builders show no signs of abating.

The man responsible for clearing the precarious tree houses, 60ft above ground and linked by rope walkways, is Nicholas Blandy, the resolute Under-Sheriff of Berkshire. "I think it's very important to create the atmosphere that we are not going to get stopped and the road is going to get through, which is as it should be," he says.

Ranged against him is Friends of the Earth, the organised arm of the protest movement, and its deputy campaign director, Tony Juniper. "This is the most destructive road in the entire national roads programme," he says. "I don't think people will allow this to happen again, now they have seen the wanton destruction."

The protesters' tactics have not been without success. When the evictions began on January 9, the total policing bill for the 2½-year bypass project was estimated at £12 million. "We are only two

## 'We are not going to get stopped and the road is going to get through, which is as it should be'

months into it and we have already spent more than we expected," a Thames Valley Police spokesman said.

The work of getting the tree-dwellers down is proving slow and arduous. Mr Blandy, however, points to his success in clearing the main camp last week. Over two days bailiffs, professional climbers and tree surgeons evicted scores of demonstrators from the oaks, beeches and sycamores at Snelsmore Common, the focus of protest along the nine-mile route.

Experienced activists had earlier dug hundreds of feet of tunnels through the soft, damp soil, preventing heavy bulldozers from entering the woodland in January. However, by Friday most of the dreadlocked denizens of the treetops had been plucked from the branches and the trees cleared.

On the ground, Mr Juniper kept his binoculars focused on his task of orchestrating the anti-road information campaign. Above him a naked eco-warrior, wearing only red rubber gloves and

vaseline, hopped from one branch to the next as the climbers and bailiffs pursued him in a cherry-picker crane. In the next tree, a "druid" calling himself Arthur Uther Pendragon shouted support as Newbury housewives below clapped and cheered.

Other locals detest the tree-dwellers. Lorry drivers often jam CB radio frequencies used by the protesters.

Mr Juniper spends one third of his time at Newbury, patrolling the security cordon, explaining the issues to journalists and seizing on whatever events can be turned to advantage. Within seconds of hearing that a mountaineer hired to evict treetop protesters had resigned in disgust,

he was on his mobile telephone to the Friends of the Earth office dictating an instant press release. For two years, he has had the issues and details at his fingertips. He is paid £25,000 a year to know every argument and counter-argument put out by the Central Office of Information and at the Highways Agency.

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"I'm not a military man, so I don't know what a military campaign is like, but it must be something similar. You know basically what your objective is and where you are going each day, but you don't know who you are going to meet.

"Some of these people feel very deeply about roads and find peaceful means of protest. I don't have a problem with them. Others are here to cause public nuisance and for them I have very little sympathy." To date, 447 people have been arrested at the bypass, mainly on charges of aggravated trespass and obstructing the sheriff. The Highways Agency, responsible for

the building of the road, claims that it will remove up to 30,000 vehicles a day from the busy A34, including 400 heavy lorries per hour at peak times, improve air quality and cut road accidents. It insists that two public inquiries and an agency study found no better solution to the problem of congestion in Newbury, through which the A34 runs.

Anti-road campaigners dismiss the inquiries, saying they were never allowed to consider the wider issues of whether there should be a bypass, only where it should go. They argue that better traffic management and public transport policies would solve the problems without destroying ancient woodland and sites of archaeological and special scientific interest. Mr Juniper mourns the loss of such sites — "all gone" — and blames "short-sighted Department of Transport policies for this nonsense".

For Mr Blandy, Newbury is, he admits, one of the most difficult evictions he has had to carry out. Apart from the soft hillside, the tree houses and the extensive tunnelling that stopped the contractors' heavy diggers moving into the main Snelsmore Common camp area on schedule, the protesters' highly personal tactics have done nothing to endear them to him. "My address and home telephone number have already gone out over the Internet," he says. "Bloody cheek."

## 'Some are civil, others abusive'      'If you don't care, you're wrong'



**T**REE-FELLERS employed at the Newbury bypass normally clear 80 trees a day, but spikes and barbed wire inserted in the trees by the "pixies" on the bypass route have reduced the rate to ten.

The three self-employed tree-fellers hired by Blackwells, the route clearance contractors, earn £250 for a five-day week. They remain earthbound while 18 higher-paid tree surgeons clamber above from tree to tree, isolating the protesters by lopping off branches using chainsaws hanging from their belts.

Once the protesters are out, the fellers move in. On normal jobs they can take anything from three minutes to three quarters of an hour to cut a tree after the initial assessment of risks from power cables, situation and where they want it to land. At Newbury the hazards slow them dramatically, leaving the fellers with little sympathy for their adversaries.

"I can sleep at night," a 42-year-old with six years' experience said. "We have to have bunks going around in front of us to make sure there's no metal left in the tree or we can end up with a chain flying off into our face. Very few people

know that the trees they spike can't be taken away to use for pulp wood. They have to be burnt, so some other tree somewhere else has to be cut down." The tree-feller, a local man, claims that only 25 per cent of the oak, sycamore, beech, ash, cherry and silver birch on Snelsmore is good-quality timber.

Of the protesters, he says: "Some of them are quite civil and talk to you. Others shout abuse, but it goes in one ear and out the other. I'm all in favour of the bypass. I have to

make sure I'm through Newbury before 7am otherwise it adds an hour to the journey."

Each day six police evidence teams patrol the campsites to gather intelligence and evidence for prosecutions. They operate in pairs, one carrying a video camera, the other a tape recorder.

An average day may produce one hour of filming, filed away and kept for five years, as with police interview tapes. The job is done by volunteers who receive between one and

two weeks' special training. The police teams are supplemented by separate evidence collectors from the Treasury Solicitor's office, who operate in threes and wear green helmets.

Like the police teams, their evidence is crucial for prosecutions. The films and tapes are backed by intelligence from undercover officers who have infiltrated the main protest groups months earlier.

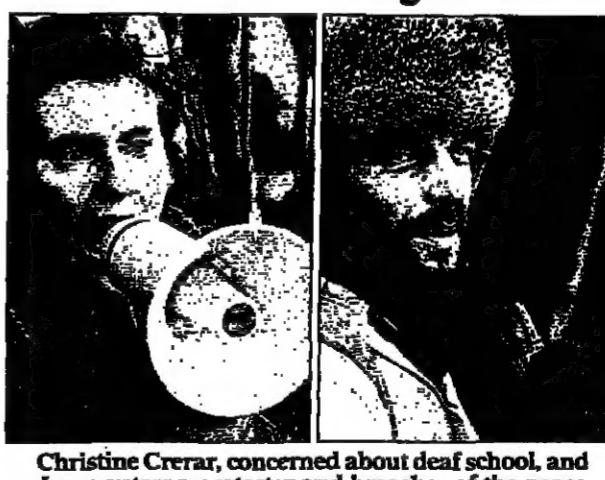
Thames Valley Police is in control of the operation, involving hundreds of officers on foot or horseback or in patrol cars that block access roads. Extra manpower is supplied by other forces.

The officer in charge of the operation is Assistant Chief Constable Ian Blair. Day-to-day control rests with a senior officer designated "Bronze Commander". A Thames Valley Police spokesman refused to discuss how many officers were deployed each day.

Working alongside the police are 650 white-helmeted private security guards from Reliance Security, who are paid £4 an hour and work in teams of between ten and 18, overseen by a red-helmeted supervisor, who earns 25p extra.

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The constables were reinforced



**C**hristine Crerar, concerned about deaf school, and Jerry, veteran protester and breather of the peace

gramme or, failing that, to make it as expensive as possible.

He is the all-round protester, permanently wearing a climbing harness, ropes clips and Davy Crockett hat as he runs around the security cordon offering support to those in the trees. Inside the rucksack is also a citizens' band radio base station and handset, and a mobile telephone. All ensure constant contact with the 15 CB stations linking the "twiglow" camps along the nine-mile route and the frequencies change every day to stop local CB enthusiasts and lorry drivers jamming them.

A single parent, he does not have to sign on every week for his £60 benefit payments, giving him more time to protest. "I do a bit of PR liaison with other camps, harassing security guards and ground support," he said of his role.

"For me it's not so much the land but the damage done to the ozone layer that's at stake. It's part of the national or even global transport problem, all linked with global warming and fumes from the internal combustion engine. That's why I'm here. And I'm going to do it forever."

## Scientists may realise Franklin's dream

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

**A** MAN who has spent years attempting to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin, who disappeared with two ships in 1847 while searching for the fabled Northwest Passage, is hoping to fulfil the Victorian explorer's dream of a new trade route to the Pacific. Dr Peter Wadhams, of the Scott Polar Institute in Cam-

bridge, led an expedition became trapped in ice.

Dr Wadhams is now a leading figure in the international effort to open a route across the roof of the world. The Northern Sea Route, linking the Atlantic and the Pacific through the Barents and Beaufort seas, will increase trade by cutting the voyage from European ports to Osaka to 22 days. The route through the Suez Canal takes about 32 days. The new route would also rival the Panama Canal.

The International Northern Sea Route project, involving 100 research institutes and trade organisations in several countries, is studying new designs for icebreakers as well as legal and insurance issues. The project has the backing of Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner. The Commission is to spend part of its maritime research budget on new ice-breaking tech-

nologies. Captain Lawson Brigham, formerly of the United States Coast Guard and now at the Scott Polar Institute, said the economics of the route had been made more favourable by global warming.

Dr Wadhams said yesterday: "Satellite readings show that a retreat of the ice on the Arctic fringes is occurring. If it continues it could make the

Northern Sea Route open for

many more months of the year, if not for 365 days."

The scheme could end the West's dependency on the Suez Canal, which is in a politically unstable region. Western firms would be able to exploit Siberia's diamond, oil, gas and precious-metal resources. The research group will produce its findings in 1998.

## Drivers aim to cross frozen strait

**A** TEAM of drivers hopes to be the first to drive all the way from Europe to the United States by crossing the frozen seas of the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska in an 18,000-mile expedition called Project Overland.

The squad of eight drivers (two Russian, two German, and four Italian) left Turin, Italy, in November in four specially adapted lorries made by the Italian manufacturer Iveco. As they drove through eastern Siberia, often across areas without roads, temperatures fell to -35C and they were beset by blizzards.

They are now at the small coastal town of Pevk, eastern Siberia, and aim to reach the Bering Strait in the next two weeks. Satellite technology will show if the ice is thick enough for them to make the 25-mile crossing.

**NatWest**

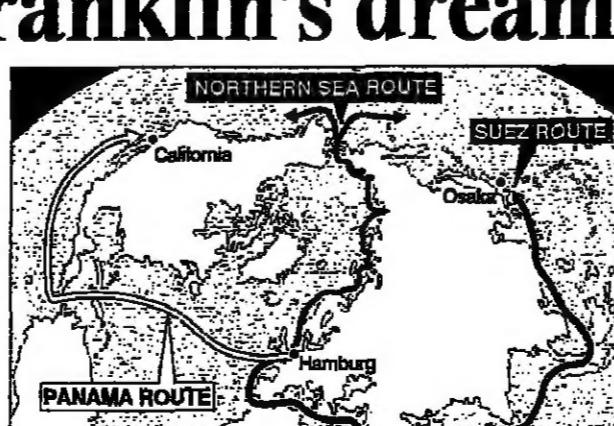
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# Brown defends cut in benefits after conference defeat

By JILL SHERMAN AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

GORDON BROWN put up a robust defence yesterday of his plans to dock benefits from work-shy claimants after the proposal was heavily defeated at the Scottish Labour Party conference in Edinburgh.

The Shadow Chancellor refused to give way after conference delegates overwhelmingly rejected his proposal to withdraw 40 per cent of benefit from young people who refuse to take up a job or training place. While delegates backed his proposals to secure better job opportunities for 18 to 25-year-olds, they supported a resolution condemning the compulsory element of the scheme. The plan, yet to be ratified by the national party, has been privately opposed by some members of the Shadow Cabinet.

Yesterday Mr Brown echoed a phrase used by Tony Blair on Friday that hard choices would have to be made in Labour's manifesto when

rights would have to be matched with responsibility. He insisted that under Labour's plans, young people under 25 would have four choices: to get a job with a private employer, a voluntary organisation, Labour's environmental task force or earn a place on a training scheme.

"For the first time, real jobs not schemes. For the first time, wages not just benefits," said Mr Brown. "For the first time, high-quality training, not the stigma of poverty pay. For the first time, a plan to abolish youth unemployment and money to pay for the plan."

"And just as I say that it is right that opportunities and responsibilities go hand in hand, so I also say it is right that the unfair profits of the privatised utilities should pay for a fair deal for the country's young unemployed."

Mr Brown was given a lukewarm reception for an otherwise low-key speech.

which focused on the job insecurity that he said had been created by the Government. "It is an insecurity that scares men and women in their 40s and 50s who fear if they lose their jobs they will never find another one; insecurity that terrifies young couples who worry that if they lose their jobs they will lose their homes too."

The earlier conference defeat for Mr Brown followed signs that the Scottish party has still to be convinced of the merits of new Labour. The leadership suffered a number of defeats, including a call for Trident to be scrapped and a motion calling on the party to set targets for full employment within a specified timetable, both of which are against national policy.

But party strategists narrowly avoided another damaging defeat when, after successful arm-twisting in the early hours of yesterday they

managed to stop a motion calling for a vote on the re-nationalisation of privatised utilities and on a set figure for a national minimum wage of half average male earnings. The resolution was proposed by the Transport and General Workers Union and seconded by the Manufacturing, Sci-

ence and Finance Union. But after long negotiations, the sponsors agreed to omit the resolution in the interests of party unity.

In his closing speech to the conference, Jack McConnell, general secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, urged his audience: "We have record

levels of support and we can be confident about the general election — but we must never be complacent."

Labour pledged yesterday to help small firms as John Major prepared to unveil proposals to cut red tape and ease the burden of Whitehall and European regulations. On the



Gordon Brown at the Scottish Labour conference. His plan to cut payments to work-shy claimants was opposed

## Sceptics threaten revolt on EU White Paper

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING Tory Euro-sceptics reiterated their warning yesterday of a Commons revolt unless the Government promises to claw back powers from Brussels in tomorrow's White Paper.

But with ministers planning few concessions, the risk increases that John Major will be defeated a week before the Turin summit on the future of Europe.

The protest threat, led by Norman Lamont and Bill Cash, came amid continuing Cabinet anxiety over Kenneth Clarke's refusal to accept a referendum on a single currency. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, has been asked to take charge of efforts to persuade Mr Clarke to give ground.

Mr Clarke is said to oppose a referendum on constitutional grounds, arguing that important decisions in a parliamentary democracy should be taken by Parliament. He also fears a simplistic campaign in which right-wing newspapers would whip up sentiment against the euro.

Bill Cash, MP for Stafford, said the White Paper should seek to reduce the powers of the European Union. "It is not enough to throw in a few tibits. If the omissions are so great, I would anticipate that a significant number of people would want to vote against the White Paper ... I would be very likely to do so."

Mr Cash's comments on BBC's *On the Record* were supported by Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, in the same programme. He said the White Paper should concentrate on repatriating powers lost to Brussels.

"In many areas, Britain has ceased to be a self-governing country. Only this week we've seen what happened in fishing. The House of Commons actually passed an Act of Parliament to protect the British fishing industry from being bought up by the Spaniards and we've been overruled by the European Court. I don't think it's acceptable."

John Townsend, the newly elected chairman of the 92 Group, the biggest backbench grouping of rightwingers, and Christopher Gill, one of the former eight whips, Euro-rebels, also hinted at voting against the White Paper.

The Government is hoping to avoid humiliation in the debate on the White Paper on March 21 by effectively giving Conservative MPs the night off. But with Labour considering turning out in force, ministers may have to rethink their tactics.

## Labour 'to take M&S line' over complaints

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has consulted Marks & Spencer about applying its methods of dealing with complaints to government services.

The party believes that M&S's refund-without-questions policy could provide the model for consumer satisfaction in the public sector. Derek Foster, Shadow Public Services Minister, said: "As part of the stakeholder concept we are looking at how the consumer can feel involved in the design and delivery of services. The complaints mechanisms operated by Marks & Spencer are a model in consumer satisfaction."

Under the Labour scheme, consumers would be given a commitment that complaints would be dealt with immediately at source. In any dispute consumers would be given the benefit of the doubt. In difficult cases, where investigation was required, dissatisfied consumers would be given a firm timetable for settling the dispute.

Susan Sadler, M&S corporate affairs spokeswoman, welcomed Labour's interest. "It's always nice to be recognised. We pride ourselves on our customer services."

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Tommy's Campaign was set up in 1992 to discover why 40,000 babies are born too soon and too small each year in the UK, why one in four women miscarry and why one in 50 babies are lost through stillbirth. The charity funds a wide range of vital research projects and through the dedication of its Professor of Fetal Health, Lucilla Poston, is expanding its influence both within the UK and abroad.

You can help to give all babies a better start by sending a donation to: Tommy's Campaign, London, SE99 6RD, or by calling: 0171-620-2654. Registered charity No. 1001362.



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Party divided on eve of Super Tuesday

## Buchanan threatens to deny Dole his support

FROM IAN BRODIE IN DALLAS

PAT BUCHANAN unleashed a savage attack on Robert Dole yesterday, describing the Republicans' presumptive presidential nominee as a hollow, duplicitous candidate who has no ideas and has sold out the middle class.

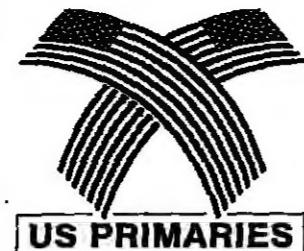
The conservative commentator, whose candidacy plummeted after his early win in New Hampshire, was so angry that he said he was not certain he would support Mr Dole when he takes on President Clinton in the autumn election.

Mr Buchanan's outburst, in an interview with the Associated Press, was full of derisive comments about Mr Dole which will be a gift to the Democrats for the Clinton campaign. Many analysts share the Buchanan view that Mr Dole has yet to make a convincing case that he should be President.

Mr Buchanan was speaking in the final run-up to "Super Tuesday" tomorrow, when seven states hold primaries for 362 delegates. Mr Dole, anticipating a clean sweep, refused to be drawn by Mr Buchanan's fusillade, saying he preferred to keep his focus on Mr Clinton.

The very mention of Mr Dole's name stoked anger in Mr Buchanan, who vowed to stay in the race and selectively target a few states, even if Mr Dole mathematically clinches the nomination with the required 996 delegates in the next few weeks. What does Bob Dole stand for that we all ought to get behind?" Mr Buchanan asked. "The answer is: nothing."

The prospect of Republicans remaining divided after their convention in August is already alarming the party establishment.



US PRIMARIES

Mr Buchanan's fury can be traced to Mr Dole's attack in a commercial in New Hampshire describing him as "too extreme" to be President. Mr Buchanan complained that the advertisement stayed on the air for a week after Mr Dole had said it was being withdrawn. Mr Buchanan blamed the commercial and the party establishment's opposition to him for dimming his hopes of victory just as he had almost got to the top of the hill and over it.

"The nastiness and the duplicity of the Dole campaign and what he was doing really angered me and enraged me and disgusted me," Mr Buchanan said. "And those feelings don't change."

Mr Buchanan said he and Mr Dole used to be "very, very friendly". He had originally rejected his staff's advice to be tougher on Mr Dole because he wanted to win on ideas. If he lost, he did not want to damage Mr Dole's last chance, at the age of 72, of being President. Those good intentions can be said to have evaporated.

He insisted Mr Dole would need his help in winning middle-class and blue-collar support, saying the senator had "sold them out twice" by supporting higher taxes and trade deals. As to where else Mr Buchanan could go, he mentioned the new Reform Party, but its founder, the billionaire Ross Perot, has expressed no interest.

Mr Buchanan was caustic about leading Republicans who said they would not support him as the nominee, a group that includes Colin Powell, the retired general. He linked them to Mr Dole as "an empty, vapid, nothing establishment that is interested only in power. It has no ideas, no vision. It just wants its limousines back at any and all cost. The ethics with which it conducts its battles are disgusting."

Steve Forbes, the wealthy magazine publisher who is trailing badly, rejected Mr Dole's call to drop out of the race. He said he will hang on to try to force the Republicans to adopt his flat-tax proposal.

Morty Taylor, a wheel and tyre manufacturer, dropped out and endorsed Mr Dole after spending \$6.5 million (£4.2 million) of his own money on a campaign that collected only 7,000 votes and no delegates.

□ Clinton role Hillary Clinton was not a passive investor in the Whitewater affair, but the key financial manager in a loan for the failed Arkansas land venture, it is claimed in an extract from a new book to be published by Time magazine today (Tom Rhodes writes).

The book says that the First Lady maintained a family investment in the Whitewater deal long after she and her husband were urged to get out by partners. Much of what appears in Blood Sport, the eagerly-awaited account by James Stewart, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is at odds with statements made under oath by President Clinton and his wife.

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Baroness Thatcher speaking at Fulton, Missouri, on the fiftieth anniversary of the address by Churchill in which he launched the term "Iron Curtain"

## Thatcher warns West of 'rogue state' dangers

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN FULTON, MISSOURI

THERE is no longer an Iron Curtain, but the world faces a more sinister and explosive situation in the combination of rogue states with weapons of mass destruction, Baroness Thatcher said in a speech on Saturday at Westminster College, Fulton, where Churchill warned the West in 1946 of the coming Cold War.

She said in part: "When Soviet power broke down, so did the control it exercised, however fitfully and irresponsibly, over rogue states... The Soviet collapse has also aggravated the single most awesome threat of modern times: the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These weapons... are today acquired by middle-income countries such as Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria — acquired sometimes from other powers like China and South Korea, but most ominously from former Soviet

arsenals, or unemployed scientists, or from organised crime rings..."

"All of northeast Asia, southeast Asia, much of the Pacific and most of Russia could soon be threatened by the latest North Korean missiles. Once they are available in the Middle East and North Africa, all the capitals of Europe will be within target range and, on present trends, a direct threat to American shores is likely to mature early in the next century."

"Add weapons of mass destruction to rogue states and you have a highly toxic compound. As the CIA has pointed out: 'Of the nations that have or are acquiring [such] weapons, many are led by megalomaniacs and strengthen of proven inhumanity or by weak, unstable or illegitimate governments.' In some instances, the potential capabili-

ties at the command of these unpredictable figures is either equal to or even more destructive than the Soviet threat to the West in the 1960s... It is that serious..."

"Because the risk of total nuclear annihilation has been removed, we in the West have lapsed into an alarming complacency about the risks that remain. We have run down our defences and relaxed our guard..."

"Given the intellectual climate in the West today, it is probably unrealistic to expect military intervention to remove the source of the threat... That means the West must install effective ballistic missile defences which would protect us and our armed forces, reduce or even nullify the rogue state's arsenal, and enable us to retaliate."

Leading article, page 17

Legislators monkey with the teaching of evolution

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

DARWINISM is again under threat in America's Deep South, where a state legislature may soon permit schools to dismiss teachers who portray evolution as fact. The move, now in committee stage in the Tennessee senate, has evoked memories of the notorious 1925 "monkey trial".

In Alabama, biology textbooks must now carry inserted disclaimers which declare that evolution is simply "a controversial theory" and advise the pupil: "No one was present when life first appeared on Earth. Therefore, any statement about life's origins should be considered as theory, not fact."

In Georgia, the attorney-general has been asked to consider whether "creationism" — the belief that Earth is but a few thousand years old and that it was created in one bound by God — can be included in the high-school science curriculum.

The origin of man is enough of an issue for the fundamental Christian line to have been adopted by Pat Buchanan in his run for the White House and for Tennessee's Republican Governor to stall on expressing an opinion. Christian fundamentalists are alert to the threat biology teachers may present to a literal interpretation of the Old Testament.

Many teachers oppose the Tennessee Bill. Jerry Winters, for the Tennessee Education Association representing teachers, said: "The Bill would have a chilling effect on the curriculum. This is not a religious issue but a teachers' rights issue." There are reports of teachers declining to mention the origin of man in class, for fear of attracting censure from devout parents, while others are rushing through that part of the curriculum before the law changes.

Supporters of the Tennessee Bill speak of an intolerance among teachers, and a responsibility to point out to children that Darwinism is only a theory.

A Tennessee state senator, David Fowler, said: "If evolution is true, then it has nothing to fear from some other theory being taught; the truth will prevail. But if intelligent design is the truth, then God forbid that we should not teach it to our children."

## Clinton faces tough battle despite Republican split

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ENCOURAGED by Republican Party divisions and Robert Dole's seemingly inevitable nomination, Washington's political soothsayers and pollsters are predicting victory for Bill Clinton in November.

But political gurus at the White House are the first to acknowledge it would be wrong to make that assumption. There is no certainty of a third-party candidate and the voting system, combined with an electoral map that has swung sharply against the Democrats in the past three years, suggests a two-way race that may bring open trench warfare for the Oval Office.

Eroded support in the South

has undermined a traditional power base and ensured the President must defend all the states he gained in 1992.

Under election rules, each state receives a number of delegates to the electoral college and the candidate with the highest vote wins all of those delegates. In 1992, for example, Ross Perot won 19 per cent of the national vote but no delegates. Mr Clinton gained only 43 per cent and won 370 delegates, well above the 270 needed to become President.

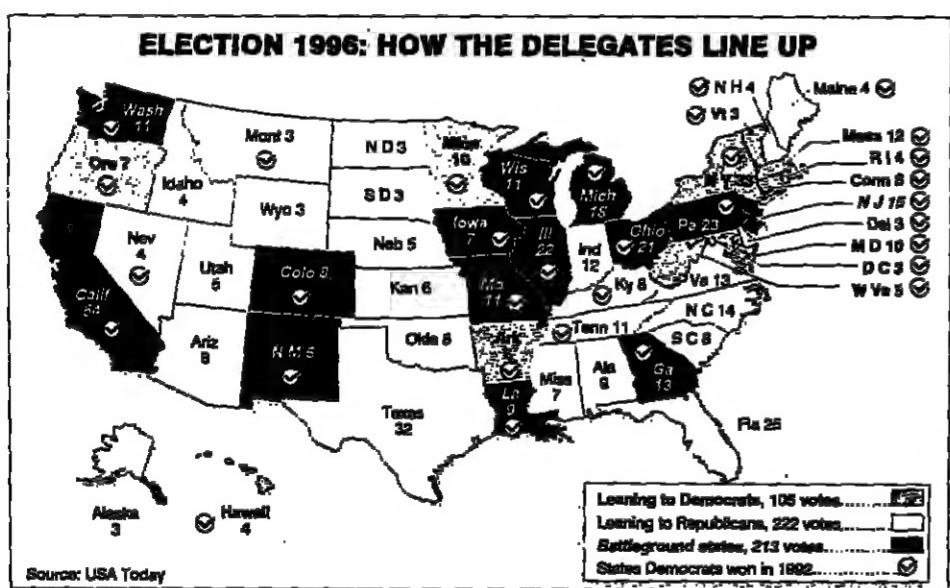
But none of the 18 states he lost then has returned to the Democratic fold and Mr Dole, should he win his party's nomination, can expect an

immediate base of 168 seats in the electoral college.

Polls suggest Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee and Kentucky would be removed from the Democratic coalition and that 72 electoral college votes may be lost there. In Iowa, Nevada, Maine and the Rocky Mountain states, the remaining 23 states where Mr Clinton can triumph carry 298 votes. He is reasonably confident of taking 14 of those and the District of Columbia.

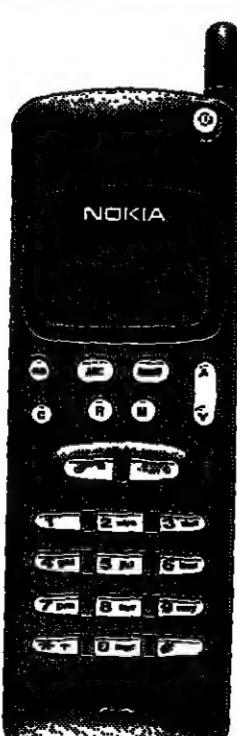
The other eight — California, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri — and their 175 delegates are the key to the election.

Source: USA Today



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## China war games trigger aviation alert

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA is raising the stakes in its game of brinkmanship over Taiwan by launching large-scale amphibious exercises using live ammunition southwest of Taiwan tomorrow. The war games, which will be monitored by American naval forces, will seal off the southern approach to the busy Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's civil aviation authorities said yesterday more than 300 flights a day would have to change flight path. It said: "We consider the area near Communist China's exercises a danger zone."

Taiwanese government officials said China would be held responsible for any incidents in the live firing of Scud-like missiles into the sea close to Taiwan's two main ports.

Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui, 73, who has triggered Peking's fury, said yes-

terday that Taiwanese should remain confident despite the storm. He was campaigning for the island's presidential elections on March 23.

On Saturday, after China announced its live-fire exercises in the strait, President Lee declared in a television address: "I want to emphasise that force and threats will not obstruct our pursuit of democracy, freedom and dignity."

Peking believes Mr Lee, who is poised to win the presidential election, will lead the island to independence.

He represents the Kuomintang (Nationalist) party which set up government on the island after it lost the civil war with the Communists in 1949.

Mr Lee has maintained that he believes in one China, but that the mainland Government needs to be more democratic. The aim of Commun-

ism's exercises is to interfere with the elections and reduce the votes of the President," he said. China says its war games are designed to warn the "renegade province" not to push for independence.

America has condemned the missile drill as "reckless".

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said a US guided-missile destroyer and a surveillance aircraft were monitoring the exercises.

□ Hong Kong: Gyangcain Norbu, the boy of six China has designated as the eleventh

Panchen Lama, the second-holiest Tibetan monk, participated in his first religious ceremony over the weekend (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

It was held in a Tibetan monastery in Peking where the child has lived since his installation last year.



Fire across the Taiwan Strait as China flexes its military muscles — Rodewald's view in the Calgary Herald

## Cuts wreck institute's Commonwealth party

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Commonwealth Institute will be unable to celebrate Commonwealth Day today because it says the Foreign Office has ordered it to close its exhibition galleries as a cost-cutting measure.

With the Foreign Office and the institute at loggerheads over its future the Queen will, ironically, mark the day with a speech calling on people to work in partnership with one another.

The institute also predicts that it could be forced to close altogether next year — the year Britain hosts the next Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. The institute says the Foreign Office has ordained that it become self-financing by April 1997, two years earlier than the date originally set by the Government. However, the Foreign Office in

effect accuses the institute of getting its facts wrong. It says the institute was originally told to become self-financing by 1995, and that the Government was generous in agreeing to extend the deadline until next year. The institute insists that it was given until 1999 to become self-supporting, and that moving the date forward means that it now faces total closure.

And whereas the institute says it was forced to close its exhibition galleries following a "directive from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office", the Foreign Office says the galleries were due to close anyway in January for refurbishment.

Stephen Cox, Director-General of the institute, said: "That suggestion is ludicrous. We would never close all the galleries at the same time and I can assure you the letter ordering us to close the galleries are now closed for the foreseeable future."

The Foreign Office also says the institute, which occupies a Grade II listed building in Kensington High Street, London, is being "premature" in predicting its early demise. "We have given them plenty of time, it is now up to them to source their own funding," a government spokesman said yesterday.

A spokeswoman for the institute, which is officially a museum established by an Act of Parliament, said: "The staff are going to be absolutely devastated that we are not taking part in Commonwealth Day. There are usually several hundred schoolchildren here, enjoying themselves and absorbing the message about the principles of the Commonwealth."

The institute has already suffered severe cuts, with government funding ploughing from £2.8 million in 1995-96 to £995,000 allocated for 1996-97. Staff numbers have fallen from

96 in 1993 to 26. In her Commonwealth Day message, the Queen says: "A successful partnership depends on mutual respect and friendship, and what matters is not what people are, but what they can contribute to the common purpose."

The message distributed to schools in Britain and throughout the Commonwealth, is due to be read aloud in the presence of

# Wounded Russians beg a lift out of sniper-plagued Grozny

THE young, unshaven face stared out nervously from the sandbagged position and beckoned us forward, while another sentry trained his machinegun on our car.

The bloody flare-up of fighting in the heart of the Chechen capital has left Russian troops in such a precarious position that they had to seek the help of foreign journalists to evacuate their wounded over the weekend. Many of the Chechen fighters may have slipped away from their miserable capital, but for the outpost of Russian troops at Position No 4 the soldiers were taking no chances. "We lost several men to the Chechens, so we cannot be too careful," said Andrei, a haggard



**Tattered uniforms, squalid garrisons and little medical help for the injured: Richard Beeston in Grozny watches the war-weary Russians desperately trying to keep Chechen rebels at bay**

junior officer who looked as though he had not slept since Chechen rebels launched their lightning raid on Grozny last week.

Housed in a once elegant building that used to serve as a kindergarten, the outpost bore the familiar characteristics of the squalid garrisons based in this troublesome corner of the Russian empire. Discarded tins and empty

bottles of vodka littered the muddy ground, while demoralised conscripts in tattered uniforms scoured the rooftops of neighbouring buildings for the elusive snipers who daily torment their lives.

Although the base houses several dozen Interior Ministry troops and is the headquarters for the Russian military in the north-western sector of the city, it was stranded in a no-man's-land dur-

ing the fiercest fighting Grozny has seen in more than a year.

First the position's water supply and electricity were cut, then it began to run low on food, and finally the soldiers discovered to their horror that they were sealed off from other Russian units by Chechen gunmen concealed in residential neighbourhoods.

"We were told to come here and help to restore order in the city but instead we found ourselves in the thick of a full-scale war," said Colonel Aleksandr, an affable career soldier whose resources are stretched to the limit.

"I do not mind fighting, that is what I am trained for. But three of my men died because nobody came to evacuate them to safety.

You are the first people we have seen from outside the base in four days."

To emphasise the plight of his forgotten outpost, he swallowed his military pride and asked foreign journalists whether they would use their armoured car to ferry his wounded soldiers to safety and if he could borrow their satellite communications to let the families of his men know they were still alive.

When it was agreed to take away the wounded a virtual stampede of young, injured men clambered around the car for what was clearly their only hope of escaping Grozny and receiving the medical treatment they urgently require.

For those young soldiers who

managed to get out of Chechnya, their contribution to this unpopular conflict is probably over for good.

Elsewhere in the capital less fortunate Russian troops have the task of trying to reimpose their authority over a largely hostile population, which has repeatedly rebelled against Moscow's rule.

Near the city centre squads of soldiers driving at full speed in armoured personnel carriers dispersed across the devastated streets over the weekend in a huge operation to flush out the last rebel strongholds.

Although the sound of automatic weapons fire and the explosion of grenades suggested that they were carrying out their mission

with zeal, few if any rebel gunmen were killed or captured in the noisy display of force.

Certainly at Position No 4, the men were in no doubt that the Chechens would one day reappear to challenge, and possibly break, their shaky hold over the city.

Casualty figures from the latest fighting are still unclear, but the Interfax news agency last night quoted an official from the Russian-backed Chechen Government as saying that about 100 civilians had died.

Earlier reports had said that 70 Interior Ministry troops had been killed and 40 were missing. The ministry said that 170 of about 1,800 Chechen fighters had been killed and 100 injured.

## Britain and France block Maastricht role for Euro-MPs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PALERMO

EUROPE had a foretaste of the hard bargaining it can expect at the forthcoming Maastricht review yesterday when France and Britain joined forces to block an attempt by the rest of the European Union to give the European Parliament a role in the negotiations.

The relaxed surroundings of a seaside hotel in Sicily did little to nurture a compromise among Foreign Ministers over an issue which the majority of European states see as going to the heart of the Union's failure to inspire the trust of its citizens. Germany and the 12 other EU states want to involve the Parliament in the inter-governmental conference (IGC) opening in Turin on March 29.

The conference will spend more than a year revamping the treaty for the next century, and all EU members except Britain and France argue that as an elected body, the Parliament would add democratic legitimacy to the task, helping to avert the public opinion disaster of the original Maastricht negotiations.

Britain and France, the two states most opposed to any increase in the Parliament's powers, insist that it has no role in government negotia-

tions. Joining forces, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Hervé de Charette, his French counterpart, refused to accept a compromise proposal, put forward by the Italians, that would have required the Parliament to be kept closely informed on the IGC talks. Instead they insisted that the Parliament's representatives should be briefed only once every few weeks.

A similar mechanism operated in the Maastricht round. "No one suggested any logical reason why the European Parliament should be party to the negotiations," Mr Rifkind said. Expressing a rare Anglo-French accord, M de Charette said: "By definition it is a negotiation between governments and the Parliament has no place there."

He added that he was sure matters would be settled to ensure a smooth launch for the IGC when heads of state open the conference at a lunch in Turin. But Klaus Kinkel, the German minister, made no secret of his annoyance. "It is not very encouraging if Foreign Ministers are incapable of reaching an agreement on this kind of thing," he said, adding: "The French and the British proposed a compromise that would not be accept-

able to the Parliament; Germany will not accept any compromise if it is not acceptable by the European Parliament." Officials said the issue would be discussed at the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Brussels on March 25.

Carlos Westendorp, the acting Spanish Foreign Minister, who chaired the EU's main preparatory group for the IGC, said it was essential for the Parliament to be brought into the talks so that Europe's citizens could understand what was going on. "If we do not succeed in having European Parliament representatives with us, we are going to fail," he said. Euro-MPs played a full part in Senior Westendorp's preparatory group which laid out the issues the IGC will face but was not a negotiating forum.

Many MEPs are threatening to obstruct the new treaty if the Parliament is not given observer status at the talks and allowed to express its opinions. Hans van Mierlo, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said the issue was an important symbol, adding: "It is not a very good signal when we trip over a symbol."

Italy, which now holds the EU presidency, will seek a new compromise and bring it



Susanna Agnelli, left, the Italian Foreign Minister, in conversation with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on a sightseeing trip to Monreale, near Palermo, the Sicilian capital, before yesterday's talks

to the next Foreign Ministers' meeting. Nations also face a tussle over the make-up of the European Commission, where small nations have one representative while Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Spain have two each.

The squabble over the Parliament offers a snapshot of the conflict that can be expected between the more federal-minded majority of the EU

members, led by Germany, and the minority, dominated by Britain, which is reluctant to yield any more national power to the EU's centralised institutions. With the Franco-German alliance under strain, London and Paris are likely to make common cause in several areas at the IGC, highlighting their attachment to national sovereignty.

Britain is to issue its own

agenda for the IGC when the Government produces its White Paper on Tuesday. Mr Rifkind also said he expected to finish work this week on an analysis requested by John Major on the pros and cons of a referendum on whether Britain should join monetary union (EMU). But he refused to be drawn on his conclusions and said the study would make no recommendations

but merely set out options. EMU is not on the agenda at the IGC, although it could be brought into play when the negotiators discuss calls by several member states, the European Parliament and the Commission for commitments on job creation to be included in the new treaty.

Peter Riddell, page 16  
Letters, page 17

Srebrenica witness, page 15

### King sues Corfu over his palace

FROM JOHN CARR  
IN ATHENS

KING CONSTANTINE of Greece is suing the town council of Corfu for trespassing on the Greek Royal Family's summer palace on the island.

Several years ago the Socialist council opened the disused palace — the birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh — on the ground that the property of the abolished monarchy belonged to "the people". The palace, known as Mon Repos, has since been used as a venue for cultural events sponsored by the municipality.

However, works of art left in the palace by the King when he was forced to flee Greece 29 years ago, have been looted and it appears there has been no attempt to track down those responsible.

According to reports here, the King, 55, who lives in London, has filed a suit in the Corfu Court of First Instance pressing his claim as the rightful owner of Mon Repos, and asked the court to ban all trespassing, cultural events and archaeological excavations in the palace grounds. A decision is expected in a few months. The council has not commented.

### Sceptics court trouble by tackling judges

BY GEORGE BROCK

IMAGINE that you are President Chirac of France and that you are having a snooze. You are dreaming about Europe. It is the usual nightmare: the Eurocrats of Brussels, guided by the free trade ayatollah Sir Leon Brittan, are determined to end barriers and subsidies that bend the rules in favour of some of France's biggest and most prestigious companies. Air France, after being condemned by the European Court of Justice, will have to stop milkingoddling its staff.

French Telecom must face competition. Electricité de France will have to plug into the energy market. In short, the Anglo-Saxon barbarians are at the gate. It is the end of *La France* as you know it.

But — *incroyable!* — help materialises from the most improbable quarter. British Euro-sceptics force London into refusing to obey judgments of the Luxembourg court. And, if the rules cannot be enforced in Britain, why should France worry? The President sleeps untroubled.

This fantasy is closer to the truth than many Tory MPs might think, and they should consider carefully the court's future as they digest the Government's White Paper tomorrow. The Euro-sceptics, who spent much of last week fulminating about the inequi-



face in Europe. British Airways is not suing the European Commission over the legality of subsidies to Air France for the fun of it. That case is a weapon in the war to prevent Paris from waging competition between airlines. British businesses use the court to open new markets.

Almost every week, new designs for a more flexible EU are floated. The old idea that it could only creep towards a

federal future is losing its grip. Most of the new ideas assume that there will be a "core" at the heart of the EU, subscribing to freedoms of the single market which involve and bind every state. Outside that, smaller groups of states will be able to agree on special policies of their own, such as forming a single currency.

The problems of making such a design work are great, but Britain has a strong interest in seeing the snags overcome. If Britain stays out of a monetary union, British businesses would still want to operate in the market and not be discriminated against. The more complex the next EU system, the more pivotal the role of its supreme court.

Odd as it seems, in the wake of the £30 million award to Spanish fishermen, Britain has a stake in the court's survival. In a flexible EU, the rule of law will be supreme. Markets come under relentless political attack and improving the quality of the court is one of the best defences.

The fact that the court works poorly from time to time is a reason to knuckle down to the hard work of reforming it, not a reason to destroy it. The Euro-sceptics, who whip up fear and loathing of the court, are too short-sighted to see the danger of what they are doing.

### Report puts Sorbonne at bottom of class

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Sorbonne, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in France, has received a damning report card from a government panel which claims that the 700-year-old seat of learning is badly run, overcrowded and academically below standard.

A 150-page assessment by the National Evaluation Committee found that the Sorbonne's examination results "place this establishment on the bottom rung of French universities", *Le Journal du Dimanche* reported yesterday.

The university, founded in 1257 by the theologian Robert de Sorbon to provide religious instruction for poor students, was originally located between the Panthéon and the Place St Michel, but

rejected the more critical parts of the report, but teachers at the university say the assessment is largely correct.

"It is permanent war here. There is no democratic life and the president governs with a veritable soviet," one history teacher said.

Commenting on the university's lukewarm reception of the criticism, the report adds: "The conviction that it possesses, illustrates, even incarnates the excellence did not predispose the Sorbonne to appreciate either the necessity or the use of the evaluation." The president of the Sorbonne has

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**ARTS  
THE WEEK  
AHEAD**

**VISUAL ART**

Off the wall: graffiti by Jean-Michel Basquiat goes on show at the Serpentine  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow


**JAZZ**

The pianist Chick Corea brings his new Acoustic Quartet to the Barbican  
GIG: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday


**BOOKS**

The life of the ill-starred Caroline is surveyed in *The Unruly Queen*  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Thursday


**THEATRE**

The stage version of *Trainspotting* returns for a West End run at the Whitehall  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday

France's awful new library makes us feel better about ours, says Marcus Binney

**POP**  
**Here today at least**

ROBBIE Williams's departure from Take That last summer can be seen, with a touch of 20-20 hindsight, as the first wheel to come off a vehicle that would soon veer out of control. But in another lucrative corner of the youth market, Eternal's engine trouble that same season has righted itself entirely.

Their future was apparently threatened when Louise Nursing amicably flew the coop, but the group has paraded a three-piece without missing a beat. Eternal's second album, *Power of a Woman*, is becoming as hit-laden as its million selling predecessor, *Always & Forever*. Louise, meanwhile, is now two hits into her solo career.

With nine Top 15 singles since their launch in 1993, Eternal's act now has sophistication and sureness, plus an opulent set and ten-piece band.

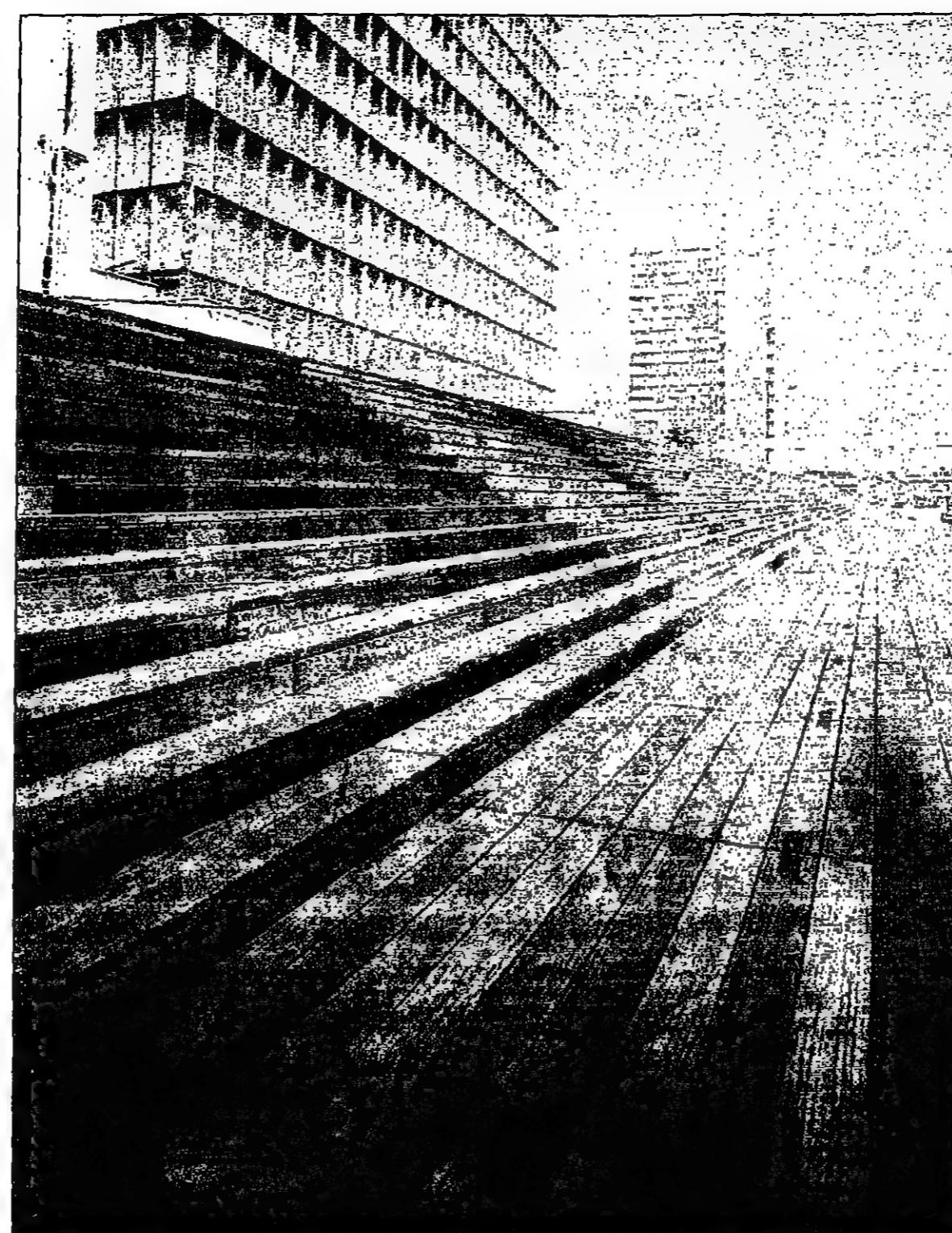
**Eternal**  
Fairfield Halls,  
Croydon

Sometimes berated for making bland, no-risk discs, Eternal move on stage — as they make their recordings — with a professionalism that would be more readily applauded in a visiting soul act. Indeed, in the current hit *Good Thing* they have a workout soulful enough to take on the American R'n'B market on its own terms.

At home, they remain wholesome fare for a live audience that starts at around the age of seven and joins in every chorus of what has become a polished package of hits. Easter Bennett continues to steer their vocal course, but as on the last tour Vernie Bennett takes an assured solo and Kelle Bryan contributes an alluring version of Janet Jackson's *Black Cat*.

The trio's turn as three of her brothers, in a Jackson Five medley complete with Afro wigs and check trousers, is an unnecessary cabaret touch. But in a business in which "eternal" popularity usually means something that just about makes it around the calendar, Croydon's soul sisters are building something more durable.

PAUL SEXTON



"The steps are both too high and too shallow, so that it is difficult to walk up with ease or pleasure"

the general public and for researchers. A great boon of the TGB is that it is to be open, on payment of a fee, to everyone over 18. There are 1,650 readers' places and open access to 400,000 books and 5,000 periodicals.

Continue down and you come to the research library, with nearly 2,000 places. Alas, merely to look along the 180yd corridors that flank the courtyard is to wish they were equipped with travellators. There is nothing to look at but the light fittings, and these are of course exactly the same, as perfectly erect and in line as any Prussian sergeant-major could desire.

The only hope is that some free spirit of a librarian will cover walls and windows with posters and hang a forest of banners from the ceiling.

Every great library deserves a great reading room. The British Library has its glorious domed rotunda, soon to be refurbished, while in Paris the existing Bibliothèque Nationale has

Larrouste's virtuoso Salle de Lecture, covered with iron and glass saucers domes.

The TGB has nothing to compare with these, just a series of rectangular salons (identical of course) where you can admire the ultra-smooth grey concrete, steel grille ceilings and the expanses of African veneer. A Norman Foster building, however insistently grey, has a wonderful quality of light whatever the weather. Here such luminosity is entirely lacking.

The best part of the TGB is the part the public will not see. Go to the book delivery point and the ingenious overhead railway that delivers the books along four miles of rails is carefully screened from view. The books are placed in waggonettes, circular containers the size of a car wheel, each with pockets for ten books. These are ingeniously designed so the inner case always remains upright, whatever the angle of the outer one on its long

journey from the top of the tower to the bowels of the building. The promised book delivery time is an excellent 20 minutes with the added bonus that you can reserve a seat and order up books in advance by telephone, fax, Minitel or the Internet.

If you think that there will have to be an awful lot of staff bobbing round at the different levels of the towers you are right. The TGB has a staff 1,200-strong.

As I completed my tour of the TGB I remember Gauthier's verdict on the Escorial: "The dullest and most dismal building imagined for the mortification of men... few people come back. If by chance they are English they blow their brains out."

Philip II's palace monastery may be severe but it is great architecture. The TGB could have been whisked up on the computer by a schoolboy. Draw one corner and the computer will just complete the rest. It would look better still in Lego.

FINE personal judgment has allowed Alfredo Kraus to keep on singing and ensure the devotion of his considerable fan club. The Spanish tenor will be 69 in September and this year he celebrates 40 years of leading roles in the opera house: he never had to sing minor ones.

Throughout his career he has been meticulous about what he takes on, refusing to tackle parts that he reckoned might be unsuitable and dropping those, such as Don Ottavio, which were dramatically unrewarding. The result has been a small but impeccable repertoire and the ability to continue to fill Covent Garden by himself.

Or not quite by himself. For Thursday's recital at the Royal Opera House the singer brought with him not only his excellent accompanist Edelmiro Arnautes, but also a young cello player, Astier Polo.

In between arias and groups of songs pianist and cellist combined in salon pieces such as Elgar's *Salut d'amour* and in frothy Spanish numbers, including Cassado's *Requiebros*. Kraus, astute planner that he is, could take a rest and argue that the cello really does come into its own in Federico's Lament from Cilea's *L'Arlesiana*, a favourite piece of his for ending a recital.

Kraus began conventionally with Scarlatti and Gluck numbers to warm up the voice. There were two songs by his much-loved Obadors, but before them came a curious piece about a miner injured in a pit blast. This struck a sombre and explosive note in a first half which reached its apex in Massenet's *Ouvre les yeux bleus*.

Kraus has always excelled in the works of that composer, especially as Werther, but Des Grieux's *Ah, j'ay, douce*

image, which opened the second half, found him a little below par. Phrases which might have been given their full sheen a few years ago were dexterously elided on this occasion.

But Gounod's *Roméo (Ah! lève-toi soleil)* found him back in thrilling voice, his tenor cutting clean through the house. Even better was Edgardo's *Fri poco from Lucia di Lammermoor* with each syllable and note precisely articulated. Kraus has always been a supreme Donizetti singer, and it was in this opera that he made his Covent Garden debut in 1959. May he be back when that fortifieth anniversary comes round.

For this visit, though, there were four encores, all songs. Opera is strictly and wisely rationed nowadays.

JOHN HIGGINS



Kraus: at 68, he takes no chances with his voice

**SONDHEIM ON DISC**

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

**THE BEST OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

by David Benedict

With the British premiere of *Passion* at the end of this month, London theatregoers will have the luxury of being able to choose from three of Stephen Sondheim's finest musicals. His career in the commercial theatre has been marked by critical acclaim but not always with commercial success, and many have sniped that it is a case of "nice songs, shame about the show".

Whether or not you believe this adage, his work has been well represented on disc from his days as lyric writer on *West Side Story* (original cast recording) and *Gypsy* (Broadway cast recording) right up to the original cast recording of *Passion* (Broadway cast).

His first show as both lyricist and composer, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, is best represented by the London cast recording, which features a suitably fruity Frankie Howerd as Pseudolus the slave in a plot that inspired *Up Pompeii*. Silly and fun, it's a world away from *Anyone Can Whistle*, which was a spectacular flop but has a tremendous score, much of which has only just been made available, thanks to a gala benefit performance on Sony Classical.

Next month, the cast album of the current London revival of *Company* will be released, but its reduced orchestration and uneven casting cannot begin to match the sheer lustre, shine and diamond-like sparkle of the London cast recording from 1972, with Larry Kert and the magnetic rasp of the matchless Elaine Stritch tearing into *The Ladies Who Lunch*. She is also one of the undoubted highlights of the gala concert performance

of *Follies* on RCA. It has all the problems of a live performance in terms of variable sound quality, but the sense of occasion is palpable and the two-disc set wipes other versions from the memory.

Judi Dench is currently stacking up awards for her heartbreaking performance as Desiree in *A Little Night Music*, but there are no definite plans to record the National Theatre production. Happily, Glynn Johns in the original Broadway cast will more than suffice in this elegant, Ravel-inspired score.

The original cast recordings of *Sweeney Todd* and the Pulitzer-prizewinning *Sunday in the Park with George* are definitive, unchallenged performances of two great works. *Merrily We Roll Along* has been recorded three times, but the two recordings of the revised version pale into insignificance behind the bright, biting flair of the Broadway cast in a show that works best on disc, slowly revealing its strength and depth below a glittering surface.

*Into the Woods*, on the other hand, is peerlessly performed by the London cast from Richard Jones's sensational, award-winning production. The details politely leap from the loudspeakers, thanks to the quality of the interpretations. But the documentation on the disc is wonderful, so track down the libretto elsewhere.

CDs can be obtained from Dress Circle Records, 57-59 Monmouth Street, Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9DG (0171-240 2227; 0171-836 8279; fax 0171-59 8540).

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Liszt's *Les Préludes*

**Donizetti back in some style**
**OPERA**

Don Pasquale  
Coliseum



IN RECENT years lighter Italian pieces — or French, for that matter — have played little part in repertory-planning at English National Opera, whose masters have concentrated their minds, and ours, on sterner stuff. Which is one reason for welcoming this revival of Donizetti's joyful and touching comedy.

Another reason is a conductor, Michael Lloyd, who really understands the Donizetti idiom, another rarity in St Martin's Lane. Lloyd drew consistently clear, bright sound from the alert orchestra, which is by no means easy in a theatre as resonant as the Coliseum, relishing the piquancy of the instrumentation. He also fielded just the right amount of nuance and supple rubato, allowing music that looks so simple on the page to exert its full Mediterranean warmth. This was first-rate music-making.

The singers, then, had the most helpful of springboards from which to launch their vocal pyrotechnics. Mary Hegarty's Norina skipped and knitted effortlessly above the

stave, the notes and lines complementing her delightful, sharply knowing stage persona. Alan Opie was the very personification of suave charm as Malatesta.

Any inclination to describe Neill Archer as an "English" tenor is scotched by the way his tone expands the higher he goes; quite the opposite of the way the throats of so many of that breed tighten in panic. The warm glow of his voice in the upper reaches, which is where poor Ernesto spends most of the opera, was quite lovely, with only a hint of strain towards the end of the murderous Act II scene.

As for Donald Adams's first

line — and, of course, every word — came across with diamond clarity. And despite an outsize stage presence, he is the countest of underplayers. His is a very funny, very touching impersonation.

If only this quartet and Donizetti could be left to get on with it. But Patrick Mason's updated production, bursting with tiresome sight-gags and supernumeraries, suggests less than complete faith in the work. Making Norina and Malatesta play their scene in the company of three waiters, two tourists, three eavesdroppers and a Lambretta is pretty yawn-inducing. But when Mason actually directs the piece, it works. Norina's slap, the pause held to breaking point, and Adams's pianissimo "All is over, Don Pasquale" was worthy of one of the truly epic moments in operatic comedy. On balance, a show to catch.

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## ■ MUSIC

Fiddler supreme: Korean violin virtuoso Kyung-Wha Chung plays at the Wigmore Hall  
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## ■ POP

Emerald-toned rock comes to the Shepherds Bush Empire with the Saw Doctors  
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OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



## ■ DANCE

The acclaimed Shobana Jeyasingh brings new work to the Queen Elizabeth Hall  
OPENS: Saturday  
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ARTS  
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

**THEATRE:** A zany triumph for the 'other' RSC; but a Plague play proves deadly



Completely mad about the Bard: Adam Long, Matthew Hendrickson and David Letwin tackle all of Shakespeare's plays, one way or another

## Our revels now are sent up

When a company calling itself the RSC gathers before a backcloth, plastered with a painting of the original Globe, and confides that it hopes to "capture the magic, the genius, the towering grandeur of the complete works of William Shakespeare", your first instinct is to brace yourself for a marathon evening of high culture. But there is no need, for what follows is neither a reverential plod through the Roman plays nor a trendy transposition of the histories to the Balkans. The RSC is of course the Reduced Shakespeare Company, three Americans who have responded to the Arts Theatre in 1992. Bearded Matthew Hendrickson and smoothly shaven David Letwin have joined the troupe's sole founding member, Adam Long.

The three-man cast at the Criterion is not the one that created the RSC in 1985, nor the one that played at the Arts Theatre in 1992. Bearded Matthew Hendrickson and smoothly shaven David Letwin have joined the troupe's sole founding member, Adam Long.

THE pestilence is clearly spreading. Scarcely has the costume movie *Restoration* landed on our shores, with Robert Downey Jr doing his best as a quack in plague-ridden London, than *Ring-a-Ring O'Roses* crops up in Worcester. Garry Lyons's new play begins by the plague pit in Aldgate, 1665, and also features a doctor called, ironically perhaps, Hope.

Here though, the focus is spread over a household: Hope's merchant friend

They play Caesar, Macbeth and the more forbidding male figures while he puts on stringy wigs in order to embody a series of Shakespearean dames, Juliet to Cleopatra, who reel about feverishly retching into the front stalls. Together, they maintain the RSC's reputation for subversive fun.

As the title says, the idea is to condense all 37 of Shakespeare's plays into some 100 minutes. Since the company's opener, *Romeo and Juliet*, blusters along for a good ten, you wonder how they will manage the feit. The answer is that they cheat. *Timon* is reduced to a mention, *Lear* to an OAP who briefly blunders into a history-cycle that has been transformed into a game of American football. All the comedies become what on bad days one feels they really are: a crazed

sprawl of absurd coincidences in which two lots of identical triplets end up married for no discernible reason.

The results are sometimes sophomoric, often hilarious.

*Othello*

becomes a rap number, in which one of the brothers marries a white woman called Desdemona, leaves her alone, doesn't telephone—thus causing a lot of moan and groan—a *Titus* is a TV cooking lesson, conducted a chef who confesses himself a bit exhausted by a day in which 20 sons have been killed, his daughter raped and mutilated, and his own hand cut off. Moving in and out of the original text, he ends by recommending viewers to turn the oven to 350 degrees, "and 40 minutes later you'll have the loveliest human head pie with ladyfingers to follow".

The second half is given over to

*Hamlet*: a dangling, vibrating sock for the Ghost, and a Polonius who doddles about muttering "neither a borrower nor a lender be". The high point here is "workshopping Ophelia". The company brings a nervous young woman up from the stalls to emit screams, makes a bewildered-looking male run about the stage by way of embodying her frantic ego, and gets the audience to complete the Freudian picture by shouting such things as "cut the crap, Hamlet, my biological clock is ticking and I want babies now!"

"Boy, we really shared something there," the cast triumphantly declare. Yes, we did, thanks to their energy and chutzpah. Shakespeare-haters, if any there be, will doubtless feel encouraged by the RSC's efforts; but its prime appeal is surely to Shakespeare-lovers wanting a respite from all that horrage. Tweaking the great man's beard reminds us that he was human too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

### The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) Criterion

Everyone except Bagoft ends up in the plague pit.

These sorry events are, in fact, in flashback, the product of Bagoft's guilty conscience which is presented as a play-

in-a-play. The corpses of Nell and the others crawl out of the grave and torment Bagoft by pretending to be actors and replaying the past. Does this explain why their performances are so stiff?

Lyon's script is bottom-drawer material. Why has director Jenny Stephens, who staged a production some

years back dug it up again? The dialogue, probably intended to be brimming with local colour, is an irritating concoction of Olde English and modern cockney strewn with infantile insults: "Y' ball o' nose-jelly," and so on.

The period songs are often dolefully off-key. Vincent Franklin's Bagoft shouts his lines and to set the seal a shamble would be flattery. A pox on 't.

KATE BASSETT

## Don't catch this disease

### Ring-a-Ring O'Roses Swan, Worcester

Everyone except Bagoft ends up in the plague pit.

These sorry events are, in fact, in flashback, the product of Bagoft's guilty conscience which is presented as a play-

in-a-play. The corpses of Nell and the others crawl out of the grave and torment Bagoft by pretending to be actors and replaying the past. Does this explain why their performances are so stiff?

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MISS SAIGON

## Anjana Ahuja reports on the part-timers who hunt for heavenly bodies

**W**hen Nicky Fleet gets home after a long day deciphering tax returns, she settles down to her night job — helping to unravel the mysteries of the cosmos with the aid of a home-made telescope in her back garden.

Mrs Fleet, 36, an executive with the Inland Revenue, from Reading, Berkshire, is a member of Britain's army of 3,000 amateur astronomers. Most have day jobs which have absolutely nothing to do with astronomy and yet, constantly, they sacrifice their spare time in the name of science. Despite the "amateur" tag it is serious stuff; astronomy is one of the few areas of science where the professionals trust — and even rely on — the amateurs.

"Professionals can't keep an eye on the whole sky," Ian Ridpath, an amateur astronomer and astronomical writer, explains. "Without the amateurs, a lot of things would be missed."

However, front-page discoveries — say a comet or supernova (exploding star) — are extremely rare. So why do people bother? "I'm interested in the way things work and I dislike mystery," Mrs Fleet says. "Looking up at the sky also gives me a sense of perspective. In life and work, problems often seem insuperable, but compared to the mysteries of the cosmos they become trivial."

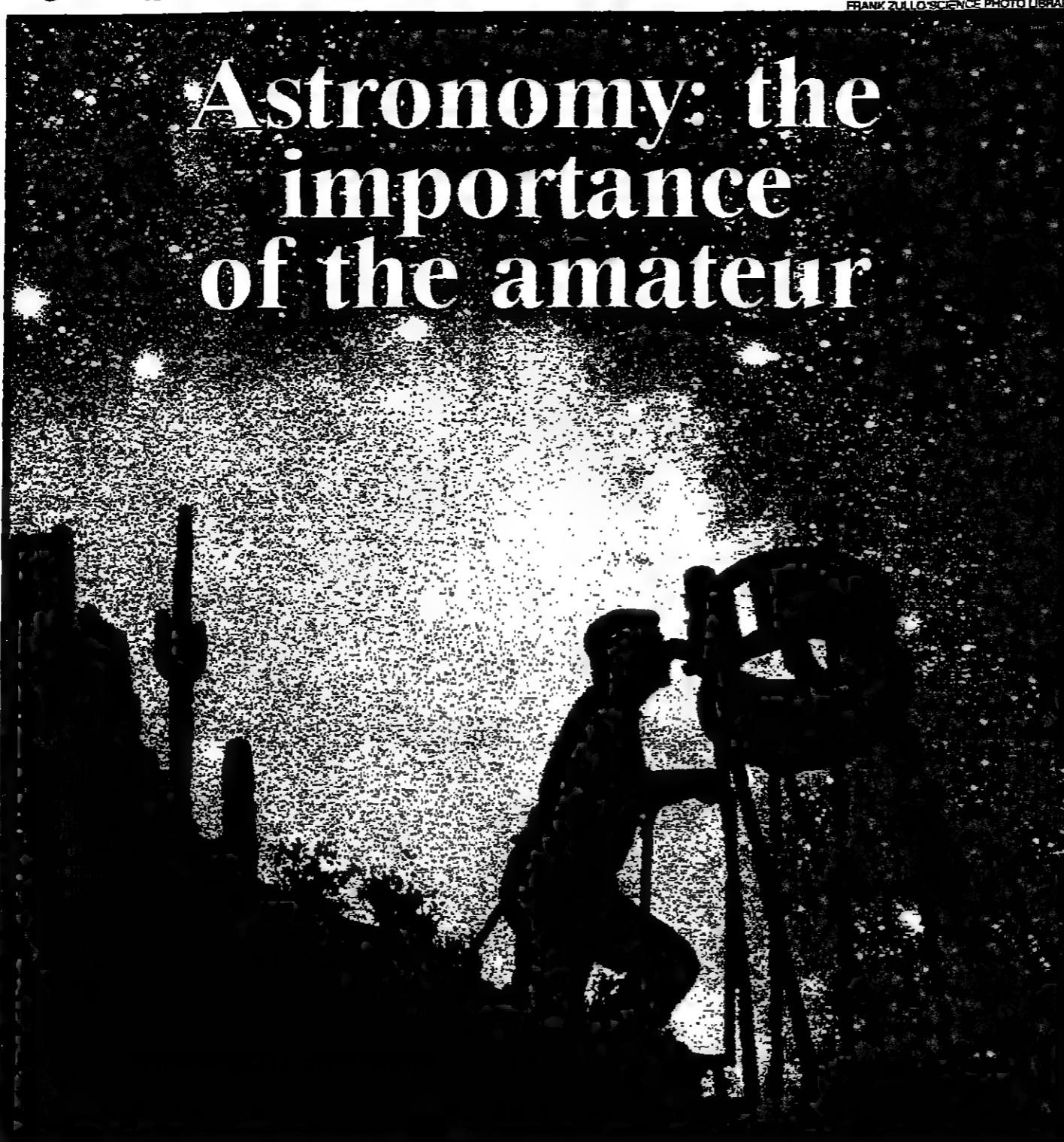
Apart from the fact that most amateurs are men, Mrs Fleet is typical of the majority of Britain's skywatchers. They spend perhaps a few hours a week in their back gardens, attend evening classes and presentations, and read astronomy books. A few might even venture on the odd astronomy weekend in the country, accompanied only by fellow enthusiasts, a flask of hot tea and a telescope.

About one in ten, however, is a serious amateur, spending every moment on a clear night with an eye glued to their telescope. They hunt for comets, asteroids, exploding stars, or stars whose brightness changes rapidly (called variables).

Planets (bodies orbiting stars) outside our own solar system are difficult to spot because their presence can be inferred only from delicate changes in stellar motion. However, as a *Horizon* documentary will show tonight (*The Planet Hunters*, BBC2, 9pm), amateur astronomers are still planning to give the professional planet-hunters a run for their money.

Guy Hurst is the king of the serious amateurs. By day he is Mr Ordinary, a 50-year-old regional bank manager, husband, father of three sons and owner of a large detached house in Hampshire's affluent stockbroker belt.

Outside office hours, he is editor of *The Astronomer*, a monthly international magazine dedicated to a worldwide community of



Milky Way kid: the figure of a lonely astronomer is silhouetted against the bright night sky on Superstition Mountain, Arizona

3,000 active amateur astronomers. By informal arrangement with the Central Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams (CBAT), in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he is also the first port of call for people around the world who think they have made a discovery. As a result, Mr Hurst spends much of his time fielding calls in the middle of the night from excited, incoherent strangers.

"After three false alarms in one night, it can get a bit much," he admits. Luckily his wife, Anne, is a very patient woman. He says proudly: "She has taken the initial calls for many major discoveries, and has become very adept at asking the right questions."

It also means he has been involved with headline-hitting events. Two stand out. The first was the discovery in 1977 of an exploding star by a postman in Huddersfield. The postman sent the broken pair of binoculars with which he made his discovery to Mr Hurst as a souvenir.

The other was the discovery of a comet in 1983 by George Alcock who, in his eighties, is the elder statesman of amateur astronomy in Britain. "George saw this comet directly overhead, and it was missed by everybody except for a satellite and a Japanese amateur," Mr Hurst recalls. "It ended up being called Comet IRAS-Alcock."

A promising phone call or e-mail message to the Hurst household triggers a sequence of events of

almost military precision. Mr Hurst immediately contacts a network of ten colleagues across Britain willing to be woken up at any time, who try to check the sighting with their own equipment before the object disappears over the horizon. Mr Hurst will do the same, using the observatory he has built in his back garden. He may also contact astronomers abroad who can track an object further along its path.

"If that is encouraging, I contact

the CBAT, which checks its records and either verifies the claim or keeps it on file," says Mr Hurst. The CBAT asks people to confirm their own findings by providing two photographs several hours apart.

Then comes the tricky business of naming the discoveries. CBAT, which is a part of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the controlling world body for astronomy, oversees the naming of novae, supernovae and comets. Novae (stars which brighten rapidly) are named by constellation and year of observation, supernovae by year and half-month.

Comets are initially named by year, half-month and numeral. Once the orbit is worked out, the Small Bodies Names Committee — made up of nine international astronomers — decides on a popular name. They normally honour the discoverers — such as Comet Halley and Comet Shoemaker-Levy. Occasionally, however, several people independently claim a discovery. A committee decision means responsibility, and blame, is spread between nine people.

For asteroids, the discoverer can suggest a name which goes forward for approval by the Minor Planets Centre, also part of the IAU. The name must be non-offensive, dissimilar to existing names, contain fewer than 16 letters and not honour political or military figures. "It helps if it's witty," adds Gareth Williams, associate director of the CBAT.

**T**he whole business of amateur astronomy seems very organised. But the pastime is in danger of being blotted out by the ever-brightening skies. Proliferating street and security lighting has already made stargazing in cities impossible and the problem has begun to spread to rural areas.

"Sometimes I go out to use my telescope and a neighbour's security light goes on," says Mr Hurst. "It's murder because I have to wait for my eyes to get used to the dark again. I can understand why people want lights, but the problem is the way they're used.

"Most light goes into the sky when it should be directed towards the ground." The British Astronomical Association set up the Campaign for Dark Skies several years ago to bring attention to this scourge.

For those blessed with dark skies, however, the next fortnight will provide an exciting glimpse of the wonders of skywatching. On or about March 27, the skies above Britain will play host to Comet Hyakutake, predicted to be the brightest comet for many years and definitely visible to the naked eye. And how do we know about it? All thanks to an amateur astronomer in Japan, who discovered it in January this year.

## Blood clue to mental illness

AN AMERICAN psychologist has drawn from her own family's experience to develop a new theory about the origins of schizophrenia. Dr J. Megginson Hollister of the University of Pennsylvania has a sister who suffers from the disease, while she and her brother are free of it.

One difference between them, she realised, was in their blood groups. She and her brother were rhesus-negative, the same blood group as their mother, while her sister is rhesus-positive. It is well-known that rhesus-negative mothers can become sensitised to rhesus-positive babies, and the immune response that is provoked can cause anaemia, jaundice and brain damage.

Dr Hollister wondered if there might be a connection between rhesus-incompatibility and schizophrenia, and investigated it by studying Danish medical records for 1,867 men born between 1959 and 1961 in Copenhagen. A total of



535 of the men were rhesus-incompatible, while 1,322 were rhesus-compatible.

In the Archives of General Psychiatry site and co-workers report that medical records for the men up to and including 1994 show that schizophrenia is more than twice as common in the rhesus-incompatible group. Among men the rate reached 21 per cent, while it was 8.8 per cent in the rhesus-compatible group.

Among second-born and later-born men, the difference was even greater — 2.6 per cent versus 0.8 per cent. This fits with the theory, because later pregnancies typically produce a stronger response.

The finding could help in the search for the genes that predispose towards schizophrenia. The blood groups are determined by the genes, so there is a strong likelihood that rhesus incompatibility clusters in some families. If these families also have a raised chance of schizophrenia, this could be because of their blood groups, and the greater danger this exposes them to in the womb, rather than to a gene for schizophrenia itself.

NIGEL HAWKES

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# Wanted - more Tory women in the House

**T**here are far too few Conservative women MPs, says Alice Thomson — and after the next election the situation could look even worse.

LAST week politicians were falling over themselves to be seen celebrating International Women's Week, with cocktails, debates and glossy brochures.

They all claimed they understood the problems that women face and tried to woo the hearts of both the blue-rinse matrons of the shires and young careerists with promises of safer streets and better childcare. And they swore that they were dedicated washers-up and nappy-changers in their own homes.

Curiously, most of them failed to mention that equality of the sexes is still woefully inadequate along the green leather benches of the House on the Thames.

Britain has one of the worst records in the world when it comes to female representation in Parliament, lagging behind Indonesia and Cameroon. In the past 100 years there have been more than 4,500 men MPs, and only 169 women.

The days when Barbara Castle fought for more than one ladies' lavatory in the Houses of Parliament might be over. But there are still no hairdressers in the palace, only a barber's shop, and no nursery, only a rifle range. There are also more MPs named John than there are women.

**W**hen Nancy Astor became the first woman to take her seat 75 years ago and pledged to speak "for women and children up and down the country", Winston Churchill retorted: "A woman in the Commons is like a woman in my bathroom."

Since then the Churchillian brigade seems to have won and the Tory party, which gave women the vote, is easily the worst offender.

Whatever one thinks of Labour's controversial all-women shortlists, they would increase the party's ranks from the current 38 female MPs enormously.

The Tories may be chortling because the scheme has been deemed illegal, but they could themselves face a public relations disaster over unequal opportunities after the next general election.

If Labour wins, the Tories could end up with 20 female MPs on their benches, while Labour could have up to 100, leaving the Tories looking distinctly antiquated and boorish.

John Major is said to be "deeply concerned" about the prospect. Dame Angela Rumbold, the first female vice-chairman of the party, in charge of the candidates' list, has done everything she can to encourage women to fight for seats.

Although the Tory party is staffed with articulate, loyal and often ambitious women, they never seem to get past the supporting roles. Female constituency chairmen expend their energies rallying their dispirited troops with fundraising bridge parties.

Bright female special advisers keep their ministers together, and other formidable Tory women head think-tanks. And Conservative MPs' wives are often harder-working than their husbands, writing thousands of constituency letters and standing by their man through any sleaze scandal.

But as the former Tory MP Emma Nicholson — who re-



Against all the odds — Angela Knight (centre) made it to junior Treasury Minister, but she is an exception to the Tory rule



Virginia Bottomley — given the job of English rose

**'We are the handmaids of the Tory party; we are expected to do good and keep out of sight'**

cently defected to the Liberal Democrats — said: "We are the handmaids of the party; we are expected to do good and keep out of sight."

The main problem for Conservative women has always been getting past local selection committees. So far, only five women have been chosen to fight Tory-held seats at the next general election. If a female candidate is lucky enough to be granted an

I f a Conservative woman ever makes it into Parliament the problems escalate from the first day, when she is told the red tag on her coathook is for her sword. The Conservative Whips' Office, long regarded as a training ground for high-flyers, has still not had a woman in its ranks and traditionally male departments can always think of an excuse for needing to take on another man. So women have few chances to sit on the back benches.

Three women stand out: Angela Knight, Angela Brown and Cheryl Gillan. They have managed to infiltrate traditionally male departments such as the Treasury as junior ministers, and have proved they can balance their red boxes with family life. But they have only been in Parliament since 1992, and even Michael Portillo didn't make it to the Cabinet quite that fast.

Even if they do manage to

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JOANNA BALE

on the shocking evidence of a Muslim boy

## 'I witnessed a Serbian death squad'

A bedraggled group of Muslim men and youths, some of them wounded, sat in a remote field on the outskirts of Srebrenica, surrounded by Serb soldiers. One by one, they were led away to a derelict house for interrogation which they knew would end in death.

It was July 13, 1995, and thousands of men captured as the United Nations "safe haven" of Srebrenica fell to the Serbs were being systematically killed and buried in mass graves.

Witnesses to the events at the derelict house were 16-year-old Enver Hasic, who had been forced to surrender with his badly wounded father but managed to escape. As he was refilling his water can at a spring on the side of the road, a bus full of refugees stopped next to him. Enver quickly got on, huddled behind some bags, and was taken to the safety of a refugee camp.

Enver, now 17, tells his harrowing story in tonight's *Panorama* investigation on BBC1 of the war crimes committed by the Serbs in Srebrenica. He describes how he and his father dodged Serb ambushes and witnessed dreadful slaughter before they were surrounded and forced to surrender.

They were taken to the field next to the derelict house, which had been shelled but was still standing. He describes how a Serbian woman soldier, carrying a gun, began picking out men for "interrogation".

He says: "A woman in a camouflage uniform came out. She had a gun... They kept molesting people, asking them for money. They beat people. They hit them on the head with their rifles. I couldn't watch this any more."

Enver was ordered by a Serb soldier to fetch water for the men as it was a hot day and most were begging for something to drink.

He recalls: "One of them said: 'Let them have the water before we kill them...' I kept getting water and I had to obey their orders. I did whatever they wanted me to."

He then recounts how the men were taken inside the house, one by one. He says: "They were taking certain people and saying 'Don't worry, your turn will come. There's no need to be afraid. You're just going in for

interrogation' but nobody was coming out again."

Asked if he could hear anything from the house, he replies: "I could only hear banging noises, nothing else. It sounded as if something was being hit."

The men in the field were exhausted. "They didn't have any food. They were very pale and terrified. They knew what was awaiting them. I did too. They knew they were going to be killed. They were praying to be simply killed. I heard people

say a Serb propaganda video and correctly guessing that he might have escaped.

With the help of Vera, her Serbo-Croatian translator, 42-year-old Ms Corbin toured refugee camps with a picture of Enver taken from the video, and finally found him. She says: "I spent a day with him going over what had happened to him, but when it came to talking about how he felt about leaving his father behind, he just could not bring himself to do so."

Ms Corbin and her television crew found the house that Enver had described, helped by a map he had drawn. It was exactly as he had said, and they discovered belongings such as shoes, glasses and personal papers which supported reports that people had recently been systematically executed there. The house was near the site of a mass grave, one of several which will be dug up in the spring.

The Serb film which features Enver is now in the hands of war crimes investigators. It shows Dutch UN troops looking on while Nazi-style selections take place, separating the men and the women refugees.

**T**he Dutch have denied that they saw any serious war crimes being committed, but admitted that they ran over refugees with their armoured personnel carriers in their panic to pull out of Srebrenica as the Serbs advanced.

The horrors of Srebrenica led to NATO finally attacking the Bosnian Serb war machine and, ultimately, to the peace accord signed last December in Paris.

Ms Corbin says: "Our film will provide useful evidence to investigators as it is the first detailed analysis of one particular war crime. Bringing those responsible to trial will help to break the cycle of violence which was at the root of the civil war in former Yugoslavia."

Enver eventually arrived safely in a town called Kladanj, where he was taken to a refugee camp and reunited with his mother, sister and brother. His father and uncle are missing, presumed dead, two of an estimated 7,000 men executed by the Serbs and buried in mass graves during the fall of Srebrenica.

Enver firmly denies Serb claims that the 7,000 men were killed in battle, saying that most of them were civilians.

Enver is one of six people

who give important eye-witness accounts of mass executions in tonight's programme. Jane Corbin, the award-winning *Panorama* reporter, spent several weeks tracking him down after spotting his young face

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## Matthew Parris



■ Despite economic ruin, Cuba has an unspoilt charm as its people wait for something to happen

**O**n a vast rock face at the western end of the island of Cuba, a huge outdoor mural has been executed in lurid paint: *The Ascent of Man*. It starts with an amoeba and ends with a Socialist Man triumphant.

Triumph wears thin, however. Returning from Cuba some time ago with a jumble of impressions which refused to cohere, I wrote little about it. But the shooting down by Castro's forces of two planes flown from Miami stirred up his memories.

People have been urging that America's economic blockade be intensified, and joined by Europe, to "punish" Havana. I am sure this is the wrong response. The clearest impression I brought home was that persecution of Castro's regime is the final potent force still shoring up his authority.

There was an air of desperation there. Machines were broken, fuel was short. The economy is wrecked. Beside Cuba's one motorway, thousands camp, hoping to hitch-hike, as rusting signs for unbuilt sliproads swing in a hot wind.

Other images stay with me: an ox-cart with wooden wheels lumbering past a brutal concrete apartment block; the Cuban National Ballet performing a Sunday matinee in an enormous *fin-de-siècle* ballet house; no refreshments, tickets almost free. Havana teenagers snogging in the back row while a jet black dancer in pink tights and a white Regency wig writhes himself into the arms of a brown-skinned ballerina in spangled tutu, to recorded music of a Russian ballet.

Havana is a splendid city. To international socialism we owe the conservation almost intact of great chunks of the last two centuries which capitalist progress has elsewhere swept away. Rotting but untouched, old Havana has complete architectural integrity and could be restored as the world's greatest surviving Spanish colonial city.

Like its 1950s American cars, Havana is a classic. To be on the dark streets of old Havana at night — coffee-skinned Latin youths in sideburns hissing from the shadows or leaning against battered old Chevys — felt like walking onto the set of *West Side Story*.

Racial discrimination, officially abolished by Marxism, is subtle and persistent beneath the surface. There are codes. The word *tropicalista* is a term that the more Hispanic Cubans, mostly in charge, use to refer to blacks. Of course everyone is equal: Spaniards and their descendants in Latin America have never made the Afrikaner mistake of committing anything to law.

Nothing works. In the delightful town of Santa Clara, around midnight, I found a horse-drawn society

(even the taxis) and half of the town out at midnight, promenading, chatting and dancing in the square. There was no food for sale and the only drink was tea. Protein is rationed. The only meat available to locals was reconstituted Spam, also rationed.

Fidel's economics are discredited among his people, especially younger Cubans. I met few who had a good word to say for the regime, and many in the street fearlessly refer to their President as a tyrant. But what remains unshaken is a sort of national idealism.

There is a sense of Cuban brotherhood, and Castro exploits this. There is a feeling of unity and suffering. The suffering is blamed, jointly, on the island's abandonment by Russia, and on the American blockade. Even powercuts are attributed to the Americans.

If the Cubans hate their country's tyrannical bureaucracy, they fear the United States more, and put much of the blame on the blockade. Many do believe that America wants to seize the island: this part of Castro's doctrine has taken deep root. So when he rails against the imperial ambitions of Cuba's superpower neighbour, he strikes a chord.

Fidel's own responsibility for the economic mess is overlooked. The American threat is more urgent. The blockade, its visible symbol, provides the Socialists with their last excuse.

I believe American hostility alone may now be keeping Castro in power, and that he knows it. To see his latest atrocity as a reason for tightening that clenched fist is to draw precisely the wrong conclusion. When the fist unclenches, I doubt Castro's rule will survive two years. I even wonder whether the attack was arranged by Havana in order to boost the progress in Washington of the Helms-Burton Bill, which raises the clenched fist higher.

On my last evening in Cuba, I walked along the Malecon in Havana: a sea-front promenade where tens of thousands of Cubans congregate to chat, stare, dodge the six lanes of Chinese "Flying Pigeon" bicycles, or just look out to sea. Street lighting was poor and there was a total absence of amplified music or traffic noise: only subdued conversation and the whirr of bicycles.

It was quiet and dark, and yet one was in the presence of thousands. Most were just standing or sitting: waiting, it seemed. They were like the audience for a stage extravaganza, after the lights had gone down but the orchestra has struck up. Everyone was ready, but for what? Thousands of people, standing on corners, watching from balconies: waiting — but for what?

Anyone who wants to understand the modern world must make a personal passage to India, which has the deepest and most resilient culture of the four likely economic superpowers of the next century, more stable and politically advanced than China, not yet denatured by the modernism of the United States and Europe. Indian civilisation is a great take into which the rivers of different cultures have flowed for more than two and a half millennia, each depositing a new layer.

In Delhi last week I spoke to an elderly Indian scholar about India's experience of British rule. He talked of the "unintended consequences" of the British Empire. He said that these included not only democracy, but the essential conditions for democracy, a non-political army, the law and the courts, a professional Civil Service and a free press. The Indian Army is virtually the only army east of Suez which has not intervened in politics in the past 50 years. He added that the British had also left behind the idea of India as a single country, which had not previously existed, and that the English language had allowed people of 80 different tongues to talk to each other.

I was struck by the obvious comparison with the United States. In each country there was a struggle for independence: in India the peaceful struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi, in the United States, the war fought by George Washington. There is no doubt who was the greater man. In each country, democracy depends on institutions which are either British in origin or which developed from the British. The Empire was a passing phase, which in India lasted for less than 200 years, much shorter than the Mogul Empire, but it is a historical fact that the two greatest democracies of the modern world emerged from the experience of British rule, as well as from

gaining their independence from us.

As with the United States, Britain still has a "special relationship" with India. We sometimes irritate each of them, but in both cases Britain operates largely inside the immune system of the other national culture. Any visiting British journalist has experienced an ease of acceptance in New York or Delhi, compared with a sense of being a stranger in Paris or Bonn. The only European countries which for the British approach the translucency of the Indian or American special relationship are The Netherlands and, sometimes, Italy.

I went to India as a guest of the K.K. Birla Foundation and *The Hindustan Times* to deliver a lecture on the world outlook for the next century. India has made a relatively slow start in the economic expansion which is spreading throughout Asia. India's economic liberalisation began in 1990, ten years later than China's, but whatever government is elected in May this liberalisation will not be reversed, because it is working.

Economic growth is above 6 per cent profit is 25-30 per cent; the rupee is strong; inflation is low, though interest rates are high; living standards are rising.

In India one can see the inevitability of Asian economic expansion, despite the serious problem of population growth. For instance, Indian banks are now computerising. They are naturally installing the most modern computer software, such as Citibank might use, and so go from the ledger to the Microsoft stage in one jump. The high growth of Asian economies is largely based on this transfer of technology, which provides outstanding investment oppor-

tunities. The formula can be described as ESP: Education + Software = Productivity. Given the same software, an Indian keyboard operator is as productive as an American or Japanese; the keyboards are coming in. India has a middle class, capable of using the keyboards, as large as the whole population of the United States.

When one visits India one expects to see mass poverty. Last week I was much more struck by the evidence of mass prosperity. One Indian estimat-

William Rees-Mogg

ed to me that of a population of close to one billion — 80 per cent of China's — 250 million belong to the rich, the upper-middle or the lower-middle class; 500 million are farm or factory workers, and 250 million are the landless non-industrial poor and very poor. In Delhi and driving through the North Indian plain, a large, fertile and well farmed area which rather reminded me of French farming, I was aware of the 250 million poor, most of whom are in other regions, but even more aware of the 750 million who are above, and often well above, the poverty line.

The best single indicator of a developing country's real prosperity is the condition of its children. There are still child beggars in India, skinny children selling newspapers at traffic lights, pointing their fingers at me that of a population of close to one billion — 80 per cent of China's — 250 million belong to the rich, the upper-middle or the lower-middle class; 500 million are farm or factory workers, and 250 million are the landless non-industrial poor and very poor. In Delhi and driving through the North Indian plain, a large, fertile and well farmed area which rather reminded me of French farming, I was aware of the 250 million poor, most of whom are in other regions, but even more aware of the 750 million who are above, and often well above, the poverty line.

The best single indicator of a developing country's real prosperity is the condition of its children. There are still child beggars in India, skinny children selling newspapers at traffic lights, pointing their fingers

have an economy half as large again. Japan, Russia and Brazil will be important but secondary economic powers. Islam will be an additional force.

India has already solved the constitutional problem which China has repeatedly failed to solve in the 20th century. One hopes that the growth of China's middle class will allow a transition to constitutional democracy, although if it does not, China's economic expansion is likely in the next century to be aborted by political turmoil.

Britain will have a unique role in the world politics of the 21st century. We are a member of the European Union, and are likely to remain so. But of all the European nations, we have much the closest relations with the two other democratic superpowers, the United States and India. If the world of the next century is to be peaceful and progressive, Britain will be an essential factor in the network of power, the only nation to have a special relationship with three of the four economic superpowers.

India has a transforming economic prospect, but Indians feel prouder of their religious and cultural tradition than of their economic future. Hindu pluralism, and the tradition of the "religion of God" of the Emperor Akbar, give Indian spirituality an interesting congruence with modern thought: the Indians have a paradoxical sense of the universality and variability of truth. The British Vice-Roy whom the Indians most admire is Lord Curzon, because he loved India, was interested in its culture, and preserved its monuments. When I was in Peking I viewed Mao's waxen body in Tiananmen Square, the preserved corpse of a bad man in a bad place. In Delhi I prayed before the eternal flame in Mahatma Gandhi's garden shrine. China has still to find the road away from the Marxist brutality of Chairman Mao; India still reveres Gandhi's way of peace.

Two of the 21st century's superpowers continue to feel affection for the real British legacy

## In praise of India

pathetically to their lips. But even outside the Taj Mahal there were not all that many beggars. Driving back from Agra by side roads through the farm villages, I saw neatly dressed, well nourished, happy-looking children playing together or, occasionally, leading a herd through a field. The cash incomes may be low, but the condition of these children is good.

It is hard to calculate the real wealth of people whose pay is very small in Western terms, but whose living costs are also low. I bought a well-made leather wallet which was pushed through the car window at Agra for 100 rupees, just under £2. Roadside food vendors sell a snack of an egg and a cup of tea for 1½ rupees, or 3p, although foreign tourists are not advised to eat these snacks. Most Indians do not seem to be living badly, and certainly they are living much better than they were. That matters much more to them than the problems of political corruption of the ministers who have taken bribes, which are the big story in the political press. It is worth noting that while many Indian politicians have taken bribes, few senior civil servants and hardly any judges have done so.

In my lecture I made some calculations of the likely gross domestic product of the main economic powers in 30 years' time. If Asian growth continues at around 7 per cent, and the mature economies keep growing at around 2.5 per cent until 2025, then India, the United States and the European Union will each have about the same GDP. That would be twice the present American or European level, in real terms, and nearly seven times the present Indian level. China, the hardest to predict, could

## A Labour lesson on Europe

Peter Riddell says the Tories should beware of tearing the party in two



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

about Europe is treated with great suspicion.

Last week, for example, Malcolm Rifkind urged a continuation of the inter-governmental approach to European security and defence policy. He made some practical suggestions for improving co-operation, including having a spokesman on foreign policy for the Council of Ministers but subordinate to them. This idea is opposed by the centralisers and the Brussels Commission, who would like foreign policy brought under their control. But it was immediately misrepresented and denounced by the sceptics as implying a single European foreign secretary.

Britain's relations with the European Union certainly raise big constitutional questions. But these are not on the agenda of the inter-governmental conference, which is due to be formally launched at the Turin summit at the end of this month. And a single currency, which is undoubtedly of enormous importance, does not have to be decided until some indefinite future date. The British Government should have been able to treat the conference largely as a tidying-up operation before these later, crucial matters of monetary union and enlargement have to be tackled. But in the current fractious state of the Tory party, anything said

gave a warning that unless the Government promised a White Paper, Labour might put forward a motion calling for one, which might carry the Commons with the support of Conservative sceptics.

The White Paper will be an artful exercise in conciliation without compromise. Existing policy will be dressed up in grand statements about the importance of Britain's place in Europe (to please the pro-Europeans) coupled with warnings against further centralisation (for the sceptics). Mr Rifkind has adopted a double negative strategy: no to granting any new powers to European institutions, and no to big demands for repatriation of powers.

So while Britain will resist any extension of qualified majority voting on the Council of Ministers, it will not be seeking to unravel the Maastricht

treaty. As I foreshadowed in this column four weeks ago, the Government will, for instance, propose limited changes to the European Court of Justice, to introduce an appeals mechanism and to limit retrospective judgments, and will seek to expand the role of national parliaments in early discussion of European legislation.

For a party not obsessed with Europe, these sensible ideas could be the basis of a consensus. The White Paper is, in fact, towards the sceptical end of the realist spectrum — realist in the sense that it could conceivably lead to a deal at the conference, although probably only after a shift in Britain's position on qualified majority voting. But many in the Conservative Party will not be satisfied. They are not arguing in these terms. They would rather see a confrontation — whether over an issue like the European Court and fisheries or over the conference itself apart.

The Tories may have to face the traumas of opposition before they learn how to handle Europe without severely damaging themselves. The real difference between the parties over Europe is less on policy — where Tories and Labour broadly agree on defence and border control — than in their internal party conditions. Tony Blair has, for the moment, freedom of manoeuvre on Europe, while John Major is trapped in a straitjacket.

## High society

A NEW and fashionable dining society has established itself in London. The Roy Jenkins Appreciation Society has been formed in celebration of one of the great figures of modern political and literary life.

Membership, by invitation only,



Appreciated our Roy

is restricted to a dozen of the capital's *beau monde*, says the society's "provost", Hywel Williams, campaign manager to John Redwood and director of the Redwood think-tank, Conservative 2000.

"Reading from the great man's works, such as his recent biography of Gladstone, will take place at society dinners and accompany the sampling of first-growth claret. References to Whigs, Whiggishness will be made, and the Duke of Wellington will be honoured," he says.

I understand that members will be asked to "rouge up" their faces in the Whiggish manner and have to endure occasional *voyage de pèlerinage* to Michelini-starred restaurants in Brussels, so as to appreciate Lord Jenkins Hillhead's former role as President of the European Commission.

"An ability to pronounce one's Rs correctly will not automatically disqualify a candidate for selection," says Williams — "but along with pomposity, a certain slurring is desirable."

## DIARY

Judge Stephen Tumim, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, has taken on a new post as High Steward of the Oxfordshire town of Wallingford. Duties are light, remuneration is £1 and Tumim is already settling in. "Part of the inauguration involved having a slosh of Benedictine, which is rather good," he says.

Doubled up  
IN WASHINGTON, brickbats are flying over the Duke of Edinburgh's decision to attend a congressional fundraising dinner on the same night as the Irish American Fund holds its money-raiser for peace.

Irish salmon, Guinness and Irish whiskey will be flown in for the other knees-up on March 14, as will the Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, and the Northern Ireland MPs John Hume and David Trimble. But although the Duke will be in town, he is not planning to put his nose round the door.

The gala chairman, Paul Quinn, thinks it "odd" that Prince Philip will be in Washington at a different dinner on the same night. "But the Irish and British have always been very competitive — particularly in Washington," he says.

## Still waiting

ONE OF the most powerful men in New York has noted up half a century in the job. Regulars gathered last week to toast Walter Weiss, head waiter at the restaurant Club 21.

As Manhattan's answer to the Savoy Grill, 21 is a place for *sotto voce* star-spotting, discreet deal-making and gossipy busting rice puddings. Along the banquette you might find anyone from the President to ageing Broadway dames who appreciate the low lighting.

Over the years, Walter, who is now 72, has jawed with Nixon about Californian wines and regarded Errol Flynn, Bogart and Bacall as friends. He maintained his dignity when he dropped Winston Churchill's pheasant and kept a straight face when Cary Grant ordered a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. "Very good, sir," said Walter quietly, before inquiring with a shudder, if Mr Grant might care to see the wine list.

## Fishy

IN TRUE film-star style, Michael Douglas sauntered into the Caviar House in Heathrow's Terminal 4 the other day and airily asked for ten 500g tins of the best Beluga caviar, costing £3,300. He was promised it would be delivered, packed in ice, to his flight, which was leaving shortly. Unfortunately the shop had only two tins left. frantic scrabbling around the airport finally produced the rest, which was almost thrown onto the BA flight to South Africa as Douglas was settling into his first-class seat. Some appetite.



model falls flat on her face on the catwalk, just like Naomi Campbell, the supermodel who toppled off her Vivienne Westwood platform shoes during a fashion show. "It was prophetic. I wrote the passage first, and a few months later Naomi fell over," recalls the author. "I do feel rather guilty — perhaps it's something to do with the title."

P.H.S



## AFTER THE COLD WAR

Thatcher returns to Fulton and to Churchill's themes

Baroness Thatcher can have travelled to Fulton, Missouri, with few illusions that she would find an eager American response to the commemorative speech she gave on Saturday. Like Winston Churchill 50 years before her, she was fighting against the tide. She was attempting to inject fresh urgency and vigour into the Atlantic Alliance at a time when most Americans believe that their shores are again immune from international danger and a call to fresh allied effort is the last message they want to hear.

For Lady Thatcher, there are parallels between the "alarming complacency" of today's post-Cold War mood in America and the "fatal hiatus" at the end of the Second World War, when Churchill irritated both Washington and London by drawing attention to the Iron Curtain descending in Europe as the unintended consequence of Germany's defeat. Her stark message is that the dangers we face today differ only in kind, not intensity, from those of 1946.

In the former Soviet empire, she says, the "Hobbesian conditions" of post-Communist life are breeding primitive political ideologies, and instabilities to which the West has given far too little thought. These conditions in turn aggravate the greatest threat to Western peace: the acquisition by rogue regimes of the technology to make and deliver weapons of mass destruction. Exceptional clarity is called for in the West to counter and contain a number of possible adversaries, all different, and make sure that its intentions are understood.

This was an alarmist speech — intentionally so — and it appeared at times, as with her call for a return to building anti-ballistic missile defences, to look back in nostalgia to the Reagan years. But on European security, and on what will have to be done to reinvigorate the Atlantic Alliance, she showed her old energy and clear eye for the essential.

She is right to turn on the European Union for neglecting "an almost explicit duty laid down by history": the speedy incorporation of the new democracies of Central Europe. She asks why, instead, "every obstacle" has been put in their way and absurd quotas imposed against their exports. She is right to point to the resulting

political costs in these fragile democracies as post-Communists profit from the perceived rebuff by Western Europe. And it is not necessary to share her unmitigated hostility to a European "defence identity" to recognise the force of her warnings that, without adding to Nato's military effectiveness, the "Europeanisation" of the alliance could easily be so mishandled as to diminish American involvement.

President Clinton's own election-year definition of a post-Cold War foreign policy is to pitch the US as "the world's very best peacemaker". The benign vagueness of this slogan avoids the difficulty of defining the tasks of the superpower in the absence of an easily identified threat. Lady Thatcher's response is to look, as some Republicans have done, for new forms of co-operation to "thicken" trans-Atlantic ties.

First, the Europeans would have to recognise that even if their cuts in defence spending were halted or reversed, it would be years before they could hope to replace the military assets which America makes available to the alliance. Secondly, to prevent trade disputes from poisoning trans-Atlantic relations, she heavily supports the proposals floated by Malcolm Rifkind among others for a free trade area linking the existing North American free trade area with the European Union. Finally, she envisages a stronger political identity for Nato through annual Nato summits which, she hopes, would shape "an Atlantic public opinion and political consciousness".

There is a kind of innocence in Lady Thatcher's assumption that American leadership is always a thing of substance. The innocence may be cultivated: her appeal for American leadership may be informed by sharp anxiety about a generalised failure of American will. Mikhail Gorbachev once said that Moscow was about to do something dreadful to the West: it would deprive it of its enemy, and thus of its unifying principle. Lady Thatcher's conscious emulation of Churchill should be seen as something more serious than a call to her own divided political party. It is an effort to face up to the Gorbachev prophecy and to put in place some of the building-blocks of a new Western identity.

## PARIAH NATION

**Iranians must be made to feel the cost of supporting terrorism**

Clerical extremists suffered a significant setback in elections to Iran's parliament on Friday. Any weakening of the zealots who have kept Iran a pariah state for over 15 years is welcome but the rebuff to Islamic radicalism should not be exaggerated. Iran is still one of the world's most intensely ideological states, and all 3,200 candidates allowed to contest the 270 seats had first to be vetted by mullahs determined to maintain the fervour of the Islamic Revolution.

The election coincided with international denunciation of Iranian support for terrorism in the wake of the suicide bombings in Israel. The Clinton Administration has accused Tehran of being the moral instigator and clandestine military supporter of Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad — terrorist groups that are violently opposed to the Middle East peace process. Britain last week summoned the Iranian chargé d'affaires to denounce Iran's open support for the recent atrocities in Israel. And Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, urged the European Union to stop "flirting" with Iran, insisting that it is a centre of terrorism and subversion.

World leaders will be as uncompromising in their condemnation when they meet for a brief emergency summit in Sinai on Wednesday to recommit themselves to the fight against terrorism. The Americans will demand support for their campaign to isolate Iran and topple the Government; the Europeans, defensively, will insist that their "critical dialogue" at present is mostly criticism.

World condemnation in the past has

mattered little to Iran; the mullahs have used their defiance of the "Great Satan" to impose their benighted politicisation of Islam on a country in desperate need of economic advance and competent government. This time, however, the relatively liberal President Rafsanjani may be able to turn the accusations to his advantage.

His hopes for economic liberalisation, an easing of the cultural war against the West and a more pragmatic foreign policy have been repeatedly thwarted by clerical hardliners. After the last election there were signs that Iran was ready for a thaw in relations with the West, only to be followed by a new outburst of xenophobia, support for subversion abroad and the eclipse of the pragmatic technocrats by clergy determined to prevent change. But now the country may be wearying of ideology.

As the vote shows, an increasing number of people want to focus on pressing daily problems: the price of food, fuel and housing, the influx from the countryside, the population boom that has lowered living standards and threatens widespread unemployment. The clergy are increasingly seen as ill-educated, incompetent and corrupt. Many Iranians are anxious to break out of their country's isolation, do business with the West and escape the harassment and stifling controls of Islamic vigilantes.

President Rafsanjani cannot promise that economic reform will bring foreign investment or better relations with the West — but he can demonstrate that unless Iran舍ts its extremist baggage, it will remain stuck down its revolutionary cul-de-sac.

## THE CAPTAIN'S ART

**A leader must know how to win**

This is not a good time for captains. One, Will Carling has decided to resign from his job next Saturday after England plays Ireland at Twickenham. Another, Michael Atherton, is looking for a hole in the ground in which to hide himself after a pasting from Sri Lanka in the cricket World Cup. A third, John Major, continues to suffer the disdain of the public. All three are victims of the curse of captaincy.

Writing in his recent book, *The Art of Captaincy*, Mike Brearley pointed out that "a captain is held responsible when things go wrong; and any rotteness in him rapidly spreads through the whole organism". He is swayed by conflicting demands: both short-term and long-term, tactical and psychological. Brearley, perhaps the only England cricket captain to have surpassed Douglas Jardine in his acumen, was writing about his own game. But his observations are valid for any contest in which leadership can make a difference between magic and mediocrity.

Rugby is not like cricket in this regard for once his 15 men are in the field of play, a rugby captain does not have an awful lot to do. He can provide leadership by the quality of his play, but he does not formulate much of a pitch strategy. In cricket, as in govern-

ment, however, the captain is all-important. He is like an astronaut to a rocket: he largely determines whether the team of 11 cricketers will soar into space or crash messily to ground.

A captain's job is at its most taxing when the team's opponents are rampant. Atherton lost on Saturday to an assault of flashing blades for which he was tactically unprepared. Tony Blair, Mr Major's adversary, is hardly as frightening as Sri Lanka's batsmen; but he is handling his party's resources with no small amount of panache. The Prime Minister's recent indecision over the question of a single currency referendum may stand comparison with Atherton's endless dithering over England's batting order.

Although England's cricket captain has no team members who are sulking, fuming or plotting against him, Atherton and Mr Major do share broadly the same pressures. They field similar demands on their intellect, cope with the shark's-teeth of public opinion and fight to retain a dignity which our history demands of those in charge of the nation's institutions. Britain is a cruel place for captains. Our sense of hierarchy is pronounced. And falls from grace in Britain are almost always uncushioned. Ouch!

## Call for positive approach to IGC

*From the Chairman of the European Movement and others*

Sir, The Government will publish its proposals on Tuesday for the forthcoming inter-governmental conference (IGC) which will set out the future direction of the European Union (see letter, March 9). We believe that Britain's national interest will best be served by a realistic, hard-headed and positive pro-European approach.

Britain should support the extension of qualified majority voting where such a change would favour Britain's national interest. Without qualified majority voting the Single European Act, which has brought huge economic benefit to Britain, would never have happened. We must not let simplistic "veto" rhetoric blind us to areas where the United Kingdom would gain by the elimination of the power of any one state to block progress.

Enlargement of the Union, which Britain has strongly supported, will immobilise Europe unless procedures become more efficient. Without improvements in qualified majority voting, enlargement will be impossible. Are we willing to sacrifice the stability of Eastern Europe to Euro-sceptic dogma?

It is generally accepted that the IGC must aim to make Europe more democratic and accessible to its citizens. So Council of Ministers meetings need to be more open and the European Parliament — the democratic link between the European Union and its citizens — and national parliaments should have more say in decision-making.

The Government can avoid turning the IGC into a battle between "them" and "us". Britain must be pragmatic, not dogmatic, if its own interests are to be served.

We believe that these ideas will find favour with the broad pro-European majority that exists in the UK. We commend them to the Government and to the people of the country.

Yours sincerely,  
GILES RADICE, Chairman,  
EDWINA CURRIE (Vice-Chairman),  
CHARLES KENNEDY  
(Vice-Chairman),  
QUENTIN DAVIES,  
ROY HATTERSLEY,  
DENIS MacSHANE,  
TIM RATHBONE,  
PETER TEMPLE-MORRIS,  
GRAHAM WATSON,  
European Movement —  
United Kingdom,  
Dean Bradley House,  
52 Horseferry Road, SW1.  
March 8.

## Spanish fish row

*From Mr David Green*

Sir, The Spanish fishermen now to be compensated (report, March 6) had complied with British registration rules before the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act requiring that 75 per cent of their crews and company employees should be British. Some had moved with their families to Britain. Some, with the blessing of the White Fish Authority and with grants from it, had invested in and built new trawlers here, some specially designed to catch types of fish not previously exploited here and intended for sale on the Continent.

Our Government nevertheless attempted to wipe out these established businesses by enacting in 1988 that vessels fishing in British waters should in addition be 75 per cent British-owned.

That legislation contravened the articles of the Treaty of Rome which guarantee EC citizens the right of free business establishment (European Law Report, September 16, 1991). It was inevitable that those threatened would invoke European law to challenge the Government's right to extinguish them.

Since our Government insisted that the relevant vessels should not fish while the court battles were fought, it should not surprise anyone that, having lost, it must now compensate them for their illegally enforced idleness.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GREEN,  
Rhod yr Harding, Castle Morris,  
Nr Haverfordwest, Dyfed.  
March 8.

## Work permitting

*From Mr Michael Steel*

Sir, I was cheered to see your photograph today of the Education and Employment Minister, Cheryl Gillan, presenting a "work permit" to Romanian footballer Ilie Dumitrescu on the pitch at West Ham United's football ground.

With three children in senior school and parental worries about their future careers, and with my wife teaching in a secondary school, I am grateful to know that all is well that our minister can find time to make personal presentations of work permits. This will give me great comfort in the year preceding the general election.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL STEEL,  
1 Downshire Hill, Hampstead, NW3.  
March 8.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanning Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Revenge and reconciliation in Israel

*From Lord Mayhew and others*

Sir, There can be no conceivable justification for the cruelty of the recent bombings by a faction of Hamas (see letters, March 5, 7, 8).

These dreadful acts damage in equal measure the Government of Shimon Peres, the fledgling administration of Yassir Arafat and the prospects for any sort of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

At this moment, when an explosion of violence drowns the calls for peace, it is more important than ever for the leaders of both sides to resist the impulse to seek vengeance and to keep open the channel of communication between them. The terrorists represent only a fraction of the Palestinian people and their target is the peace process itself. To break it off is to hand it a victory.

We should remember too that the suicide bombers of Hamas are young men whose whole lives have been lived under Israeli occupation. They have seen their parents insulted and humiliated and they themselves have endured the repression and brutality that are inseparable from occupation — and all the time, for almost 30 years, they have been hauled helplessly while the Israelis seized the land of Palestinian farmers and built on it the settlements which are condemned by the United Nations as "illegal and an obstacle to peace".

If the Israelis now revert to the "iron fist" policy by which they have tried for so long, without success, to break the spirit of the Palestinians, what good can it do? Surely experience shows that it will only perpetuate the cycle of violence of which the Israelis themselves are for the moment the victims?

By a huge programme of collective punishment directed against all Palestinians without discrimination they have it in their power to do still greater injury to those they have made their enemies — but at a terrible cost, in the long run, to themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
MAYHEW,  
MICHAEL ADAMS,  
JAMES CRAIG,  
STEVE SHERMAN,  
MICHAEL WALL,  
DENNIS WALTERS,  
Middle East International,  
21 Collingham Road,  
Earls Court, SW5.  
March 8.

*From the Principal of The Muslim College*

Sir, The recent tragedies in the Holy Land have saddened, indeed horrified, many of us Muslims. No one wishes to

see innocent lives lost and peaceful people terrorised, but there are those who glory in acts of violence and who equate peace with weakness.

The march for peace in the complex issue of the Middle East has begun, albeit with halting steps, but it is so precious that all men of goodwill must endeavour to their utmost to see that it reaches its destination in a just settlement.

This will require all of us — Muslims, Christians, and Jews — to be both vigilant and forbearing. We must insist within our peoples a set of values in which we accord each other respect and consideration.

We have for so long dehumanised and demonised each other. This has allowed the assassins and the bombers to be hailed as heroes. In this sad and crucial time heroism should be accorded only to the peacemakers. The road to peace is always hard, but need it be bloody?

I extend my condolences to all the victims of this sad conflict and my prayer that the spirit of our true faiths will overcome the hatred that the wounds of recent events have evoked. The leaders of both peoples need to be far-sighted and more restrained to save the peace process from its enemies.

Yours sincerely,  
M. A. ZAKI BADAWI,  
Principal,  
The Muslim College,  
20-22 Creffield Road, W5.  
March 8.

*From Dr Salah Ez*

Sir, The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, is right to state (letter, March 7) that religion can be used blasphemously to justify great evil.

This is exactly what the Zionists did when they embarked upon creating the Jewish state by slaughtering, terrorising and expelling the Arab inhabitants of Palestine.

It is religion which is being used, in defiance of international and UN resolutions, to justify the occupation of the West Bank and the annexing of Arab East Jerusalem. It is religion which is being used to grant Jews from all corners of the earth a "right of return" while the rightful owners of the land are denied that right, and thus to prevent the removal of even the most provocative Jewish settlements.

Had Jewish leaders worldwide condemned and confronted all this evil there is no doubt that the blood of innocent children on both sides could have been easily spared.

Yours faithfully,  
S. EZZ,  
223 Ifley Road, Oxford.  
March 8.

*From Miss Marion Shoard*

Sir, Sir David Steel (letter, March 4) argues that walkers must be excluded from the countryside because it is "a place of industry". There are those who have played a much more prominent role in rural industries than Sir David who would disagree.

Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union from 1986 to 1991, opened his 800-acre farm to the public eight years ago. He recently told *The Times* (report, February 26): "I have had no problems."

Sir David does not deny that the rural industries of Norway and Sweden appear to have weathered the hazards of a general right of public access with no visible ill-effects. Instead, he asserts that their experience is irrelevant because population densities are higher in Britain than in Scandinavia.

In fact, although Scandinavia's Arctic regions are of course pretty empty, the countryside in parts of southeast Sweden and southern Norway is extremely heavily used for recreation.

These areas are not only the target for numerous day visitors from the surrounding population centres. They are also the location of many of the second homes which are owned by a third of the families living in these countries.

Sir David might also care to note the position in Germany, which is far more densely populated than Norway or Sweden. In the 1970s, West German farmers and foresters mounted protests similar to Sir David's against impending legislation aimed at extending public access to the countryside. The legislation nonetheless went ahead, and the effectiveness of Germany's rural industries remains unimpaired.

It is understandable that our own farmers should fear what they have not experienced. Where that experience exists, it seems to show their fears to be groundless.

Yours faithfully,  
MARION SHOARD,  
15 Melbury Gardens, SW20.  
March 5.

### Thundering success

*From Rabbi David Lincoln*

Sir, In a letter published by *The Times* on January 6, 1982, I called for the resumption of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Albania.

For some inexplicable reason the Prime Minister of the day, Harold Macmillan, failed to act on my suggestion. Evidently it also had no effect on Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Harold Wilson, Edward Heath, James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher.

Imagine my delight when your columns announced last week (report, February 22 leading article, February 23) that John Major had shown the resolution that his predecessors lacked. I left Britain because I had imagined that my influence had waned; this reassurance is therefore most welcome.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID H. LINCOLN,  
Park Avenue Synagogue,  
50 East 87th Street,  
New York, NY10128.  
March 6.





## NEWS

**New grammar school era sought**

■ Every large town in England and Wales could have a new grammar school under plans being drawn up by the Prime Minister's policy unit. Parents, businessmen and community groups would be invited to club together to apply for government money to set up and run schools that selected pupils by academic ability. The new schools would have grant-maintained status and be free from local education authority control. Page 1

**Thatcher in brush with IRA killer**

■ Baroness Thatcher came within yards of a convicted IRA killer and police stood by as the man and a crowd of about 80 Irish-American demonstrators followed her car down the main street of Fulton, Missouri. The incident appeared to be a serious security lapse. Pages 1, 10, 17

**Carling quits**

Will Carling announced that he was giving up the England captaincy for "rugby reasons" which had "nothing to do with my personal life". Pages 1, 17, 23, 29

**Labour rail rift**

Labour was at odds over how Railtrack should be taken back into public ownership. Tony Blair is facing mounting pressure from the unions over how he will fulfil his pledge of restoring a "publicly owned, publicly accountable" railway. Page 1

**Dublin talks**

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, will hold talks in Dublin tonight with John Bruton amid Unionist delight after the Taoiseach launched a stinging attack on the IRA. Page 2

**Victim wakes**

A musician who spent two years in a coma after an apparent rail accident has regained consciousness to tell police that someone tried to kill him. Page 3

**Girl survives**

A girl of 13 who was given a one-in-a-hundred chance of survival after contracting meningitis will return to school. Page 3

**£1m protest**

The cost of policing the Newbury bypass protest passed £1 million, but clashes between tree dwellers and road builders showed no signs of abating. Page 5

**Title fight goes to High Court**

■ The Attorney-General has intervened to settle a legal wrangle over who is the rightful heir to Lord Moynihan, who died in the Philippines while running a string of massage parlours. The favourite to succeed is Colin, a former Tory Sports Minister and Olympic rowing medallist who is a half-brother of the late Liberal peer. Page 7



A naked model earning £50 in the name of art yesterday during Peter Greenaway's exhibition at the Hayward Gallery. Page 1

**BUSINESS**

**Defence:** Britain is set to join with France and Germany to develop an armoured personnel carrier, paving the way for British membership of a European Armaments Agency. Page 40

**Marketeers:** Dealers are braced for a mark-down in London prices after Friday's 170-point slump on Wall Street. Page 40

**Fighting Back:** BET is promising a big dividend increase to discourage investors from accepting a hostile bid from Rentokil. Page 37

**Oil:** Iraq is asking for United Nations consent to step up oil exports, threatening to undermine prices in an over-supplied market. Page 37

**Small Business:** What firms want from today's conference. Page 38

**ARTS**

**Books but no looks:** If the British feel downcast about the long-delayed British Library, says Marcus Binney, they should remind themselves that it cannot possibly be as poorly designed as France's new Bibliothèque National. Page 12

**Bard in bits:** The Reduced Shakespeare Company has produced a hilarious new West End show, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. Page 13

**Donizetti revived:** At the Coliseum, English National Opera has staged a production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. Page 12

**Long-lasting:** With nine Top 15 hits in two years, and a screaming full house at Croydon over the weekend, the pop group Eternal have never been better. Page 12

**FEATURES**

**Lonely voices:** Although the Tory Party is staffed with articulate, loyal and often ambitious women, they never seem to get past the supporting roles. Alice Thomson reports. Page 15

**Mass executions:** "They were praying to be simply killed," heard people whispering that they were hoping to be killed without suffering. Joanna Hale on the shocking evidence of a Muslim boy after the fall of Srebrenica. Page 15

**Donizetti revived:** At the Coliseum, English National Opera has staged a production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. Page 12

**Star-struck:** Astronomy is one of the few areas of science where the professionals trust — and even rely on — the amateurs. Anjana Ahuja on the part-timers who hunt for heavenly bodies. Page 14

**SPORT**

**Football:** Leeds United and Liverpool produced a surfeit of negative football as they ground out a boring 0-0 draw in the sixth round of the FA Cup at Elland Road. Page 21

**Motor racing:** Damon Hill won the Australian Grand Prix to equal the 13 victories achieved by his late father, Graham. Hill had stuck to his team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, until Villeneuve's oil problems gave him victory. Page 21 and 22

**Cricket:** England's humiliating performance in the World Cup raises important issues concerning the management and structure of the English game. There are lessons to be learnt from a campaign riddled with flaws. Pages 23 and 27

**Athletics:** Duaine Ladejo won Britain's first gold medal of the European Indoor Championships in Stockholm when he retained the 400 metres title he secured in Paris two years ago. Page 28

**Racing:** Conflicting weather forecasts are making life difficult for the racing fraternity in the lead-up to the Cheltenham Festival, which starts tomorrow. Page 31

**Golf:** The withdrawal, owing to arthritis, of José María Olazábal from the Desert Classic in Dubai managed to overshadow the victory of Peter Headlam in the Moroccan Open. Page 23

**MIND AND MATTER**

**Star-struck:** Astronomy is one of the few areas of science where the professionals trust — and even rely on — the amateurs. Anjana Ahuja on the part-timers who hunt for heavenly bodies. Page 14

**TOMORROW****IN THE TIMES**

**■ THEATRE:** Centre-stage: the remarkable rise and rise of the mercurial actor Adrian Lester

**■ RACING:** Jamie Osborne gives a jockey's view of the jumps at Cheltenham

**TOMORROW****IN THE TIMES**

**■ THEATRE:** Centre-stage: the remarkable rise and rise of the mercurial actor Adrian Lester

**■ RACING:** Jamie Osborne gives a jockey's view of the jumps at Cheltenham

**LOTTERY NUMBERS**

14, 16, 29, 30, 37, 45. Bonus: 7. There were eight winners.

**TV LISTINGS**

**Preview:** The search is on for the champion of British sport. *The Greatest* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss discovers that seemingly nice men may bear their wives. Page 39

**OPINION****After the Cold War**

Lady Thatcher draws parallels between the "alarming complicity" of the post-Cold War mood in America today and the "fatal hiatus" at the end of World War II. Page 17

**Pariah nation**

Clerical extremists suffered a significant setback in elections to Iran's parliament but the rebuff to Islamic radicalism should not be exaggerated. Page 17

**The captain's art**

This is not a good time to be a captain in England. Page 17

**COLUMNS****WILLIAM REES-MOGG**

Of all the European nations, we have much the closest relations with two of the next century's superpowers, the United States and India. Page 16

**PETER RIDDELL**

The Tories may have to face the traumas of opposition before they learn how to handle Europe without severely damaging themselves. The real difference between the parties over Europe is less on policy than in their internal party conditions. Page 16

**OBITUARIES**

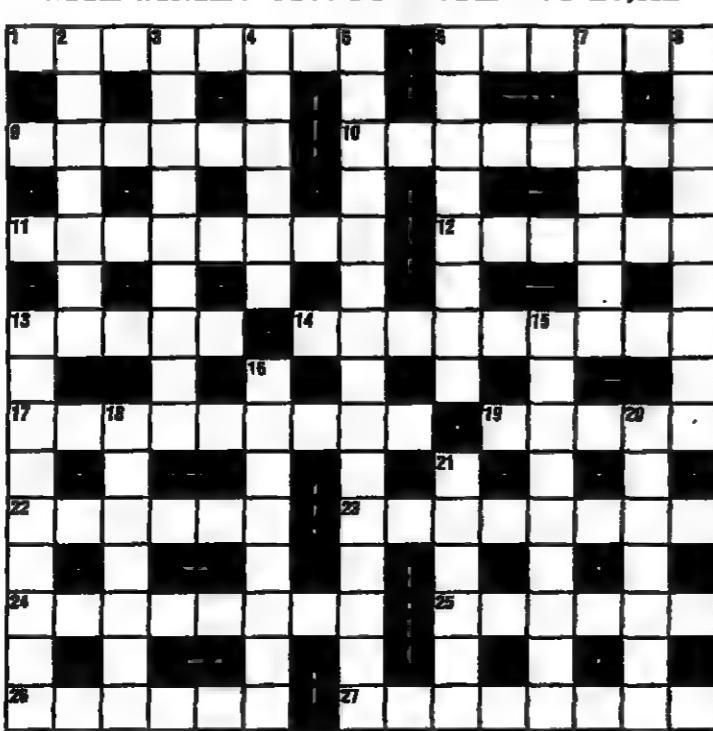
**George Burns,** comedian; **Brigadier Bill Bradford,** wartime escapee; **Audrey Nicholson,** English teacher and friend to poets; **J. C. Beckett,** Professor of Irish History. Page 19

**LETTERS**

**White Paper on Europe:** Bacon self-portrait; access to the countryside. Page 17

**THE PAPERS**

An international summit on terrorism is to be held this week for the first time in history. For the US the main culprit is Iran. Suspicion about Iran are more than justified. The Americans and the Europeans have valid reasons to take differing positions. But this must not be at the expense of the peace process, for then the terrorists would indeed have won. — *La Repubblica*

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,112****TIMES WEATHERCALL**

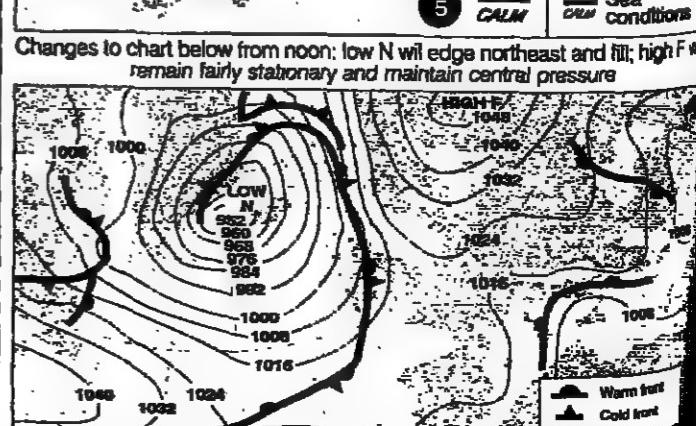
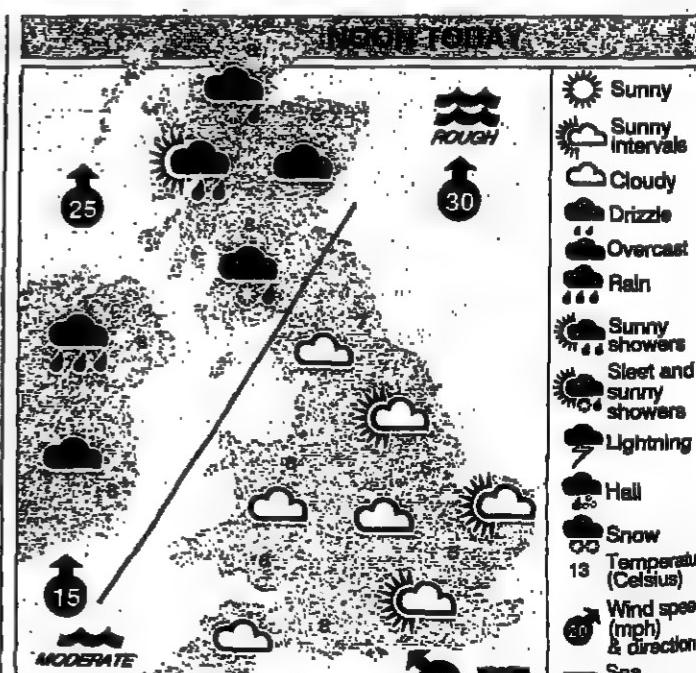
For regional forecast, dial 0891 500 followed by code:  
Greater London: Kent, Surrey & Sussex: Essex, Herts & Beds: Devon & Cornwall: Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset: Bristol: Dorset: Northants & Bucks: Cambs: West & Shropshire: Hereford & Worcester: Northants & Bucks: Central Midlands: East Midlands: Lancs & Merseyside: Dyfed & Powys: Gwent & Gwynedd: N.W. England: W.S. Yorks & Dales: N.E. England: Cumbria: S. Lancs & W. Yorkshire: S.W. Scotland: N. Scotland: S. Scotland: East & West Lothian: Borders: E. & W. Scotland: Grampian & E. Highlands: N.W. Highlands: Orkney & Shetland: N. Ireland: Weathercall is 30p per min (from calls), 10p other times.

**FORECAST**

**■ N. Wales, NW England, Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** bright start, sunny intervals. Rain or sleet during evening. Wind S or SW, mainly moderate. Max 8C (46F).  
**■ Is. of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** Rain or sleet, mainly on hills, during afternoon. Wind S or SW, moderate, locally fresh. Max 7C (45F).  
**■ NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, N. Ireland:** rain or sleet, snow mainly on hills. Wind S or SW, fresh or strong, locally gale. Max 8C (46F).  
**■ Orkney, Shetland:** rain, sleet or snow. Wind S, strong to gale. Max 8C (43F).  
**■ Outlook:** turning showery in the west, brighter in east. Winds easing.

**AROUND BRITAIN**

at 6am to 6pm b:b:right; cloudlet:cloud storm:cloud: f:fog: fg:fog g:gale h:high; rain: shower; s:sleet; sm: snow; sun: sun; thunder: thunder; t:tumbleweed; w:westerly; x:x; z:zephyr; 00: temperature (Celsius); 00: wind speed (mph) & direction; 00: sea conditions.

**HIGH TIDES**

TODAY	AM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT
London Bridge	5.20	5.5	5.50	5.20	5.5
Aberdeen	5.06	5.8	5.00	5.00	5.8
Berwick	5.46	5.8	5.40	5.40	5.8
Cardiff	10.46	12.3	11.07	11.9	12.4
Dover	5.19	5.8	5.10	5.10	5.8
Dunoon	10.32	11.0	10.45	10.45	11.0
Dunoon (N.Wall)	9.32	4.8	9.53	4.8	5.2
Falmouth	5.08	5.8	5.00	5.00	5.8
Glasgow	5.37	5.8	5.30	5.30	5.8
Hanover	2.03	3.1	2.00	2.00	3.1
Holyhead	1.42	5.1	2.04	3.3	5.1
Hull (Alton D)	9.57	5.1	10.18	5.0	5.1
Isle of Wight	10.04	6.3	10.29	6.2	6.3
King's Lynn	10.04	6.3	10.29	6.2	6.3
Torquay	5.28	4.0	5.15	3.9	4.0
Weymouth	5.22	5.8	5.15	5.15	5.8

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**HIGHEST LOWEST**  
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 17C (63F); lowest day mean: Cromer, Norfolk, 9.8C (49F); highest rainfall: Barbecute, Weston-super-Mare, 0.12in; highest sunshine: Eastbourne, 9.8hr.

**HOURS OF DARKNESS**

Sunrise 6.23 am Sunset 5.58 pm Moonrise 11.21 pm Moonset 12.02 am

Last sunset tomorrow: London 5.29 pm to 6.21 pm Bristol 6.08 pm to 6.31 pm Edinburgh 6.51 pm to 6.33 pm Manchester 6.09 pm to 6.30 pm Greenwich 6.21 pm to 6.42 pm

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London 6.21 pm to 6.

## MOTOR RACING

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How Hill equalled his father's grand prix record

## CRICKET

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'You're far too young, Michael, to become a sourpuss'

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Warne's mentor pitches up in Cumbria

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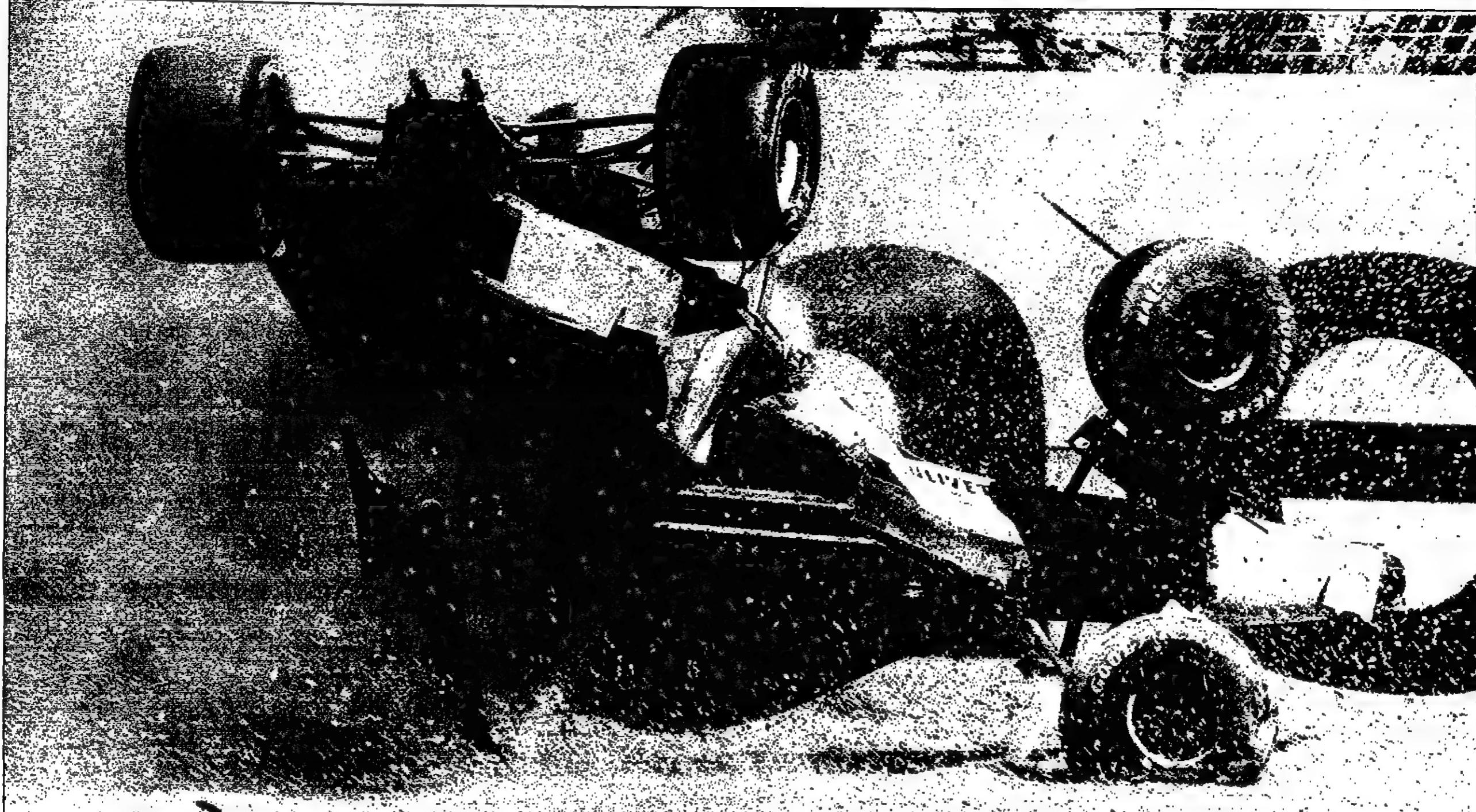
**29**

England's captain of industry earns fond farewells

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 11 1996

## BRITISH DRIVER CRASHES AT 185 MPH IN MELBOURNE - AND WALKS AWAY



Brundle's Jordan-Peugeot breaks in half after a 185mph collision in the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne yesterday. Brundle walked away unhurt and re-entered the race. Photograph: Paul Crock

### Brundle's escape astonishes crowd

FROM OLIVER HOLT  
IN MELBOURNE

MARTIN BRUNELLE, the British Formula One motor racing driver, escaped unhurt from a spectacular crash on the first lap of the Australian Grand Prix here yesterday and then astonished thousands of cheering spectators by sprinting back up the pit-lane and demanding to be allowed to re-enter the interrupted race.

The accident happened seconds after the start of the opening race of the season, which was won by Damon Hill, in a Williams-Renault.

Brundle was travelling at 185mph in his Jordan-Peugeot — a car, ironically, at the centre of a safety row — when David Coulthard's McLaren-Mercedes was pushed into his path. Brundle ran into the back of Johnny Herbert's Sauber-Ford and took off, somersaulting over it. "It was like that scene out of *Top Gun*," Herbert said. "I looked up and I could see Martin in his cockpit looking down."

His car ploughed upside-down into a gravel trap and barrel-rolled four times. "I thought he was dead," Coulthard said. But Brundle, 36, the oldest driver in the sport, persuaded doctors to let him re-enter the race in a spare car when it was stopped to allow wreckage to be cleared away. He crashed out, more mundanely this time, on the second lap.

"When I went up into the air," Brundle said, "I thought 'This is not good'. That is the type of accident drivers fear most. You are out of control — in the lap of the Gods."

### Goalless tie leaves semi-final questions unanswered

## Stalemate satisfies Leeds

**Leeds United** ..... 0  
**Liverpool** ..... 0

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

LIKE George Burns, the FA Cup seems always to have been with us. Today, there is a void: Burns has given us the last laugh and the Cup lies dormant, for the first time in history. The semi-final draw does not have a single team that is qualified to play in it.

Yesterday's blank scoreline at Elland Road between Leeds United and Liverpool, contrived by the tactics from first to last, happened to draw 15,000 below Leeds's capacity gate. That meant that the majority of the 24,632 who could afford the extortionate £24 ticket prices and could resist the live BBC television transmission have somehow found the means to try to support their team all the way to Wembley in a second Cup, just two weeks before they have to pay once again for the Coca-Cola Cup final, for which, surprise, surprise, there is an oversubscription of more than 10,000 desperate people chasing tickets.

There are players who could finish this quarter-final in the blink of an eye," John Barnes, the Liverpool captain, had forecast at luncheon. Nobody blinked, nobody dared and, in a match that started tentative and ended tired, the fear of defeat smothered any anticipation of victory, or any ambition to be a glory seeker.

Howard Wilkinson, the

Leeds manager, resorted to sarcasm afterwards when he was asked if he felt sorry for the fans. "Yeah, I said to them [the players] at half-time you've got to make this more entertaining," he said. "Go out and put in an own goal, then two of you lie down, let Liverpool go three up and everyone can go home happy saying they'd been entertained!"

He puckered his lips and then, in more characteristic mode, spoke of the draining league and cup programme, the fact that it is only early March and his captain, Gary McAllister, had played all 16 cup-ties this season, plus league matches, plus internationals. Yet in truth, Leeds, the home team remember, had set out technically to negate the higher potential, smooth passing and rhythm with which Liverpool had trounced them 5-0 in the FA Carling Premier-shape game at Anfield.

We went to Liverpool in January, had Gary Kelly sent off and got torched 5-0 and everybody said we were rubbish," Wilkinson added. "We've conceded no goals

Photograph ..... 24

Wimbledon's Cup upset ..... 24

Tottenham pay penalty ..... 25

Brazilians struggle ..... 25

## Heart in mouth before Murray's mouthful

For ten awful seconds, it seemed certain that I had got up in the middle of the night to watch a man die — live on television. From David Coulthard's McLaren steaming unexpectedly to the right, to the almost unrecognisable mess of tangled metal that came to rest in the neatly-raked gravel trap, the Channel 9 cameras captured every detail of Martin Brundle's departure, both from the Australian Grand Prix and very probably from life.

Then, before the cameras could be turned away in case they caught sight of something horrid, a strange thing happened. A brave steward rushed over (presumably expecting to find the driver in several pieces) and Brundle clambered out of the wreckage

and went sprinting back to the pits to get the spare car. "Miracle of miracles," Murray Walker said. Just for once, he was spot on.

And I mean just for once. With the race re-started, Walker was back to his eccentric and inaccurate best. Footwork-Harts became Footwork-Fords, split times became multiple choice and as for the laps remaining, that was anybody's guess. "Lap nine, 47 to go," Walker shouted. "Fifty laps to go," the Tag Heuer caption announced. It was even thus — but it will not be thus for much longer.

The real reasons we had got up in the middle of the night were two-fold. The first was to see if Damon Hill would win (well, it was in my house) and the second was to begin the long goodbye to Walker, not so



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

much the voice of motor racing as its high-pitched scream. The BBC's contract to cover Formula One expires at the end of this season. Next year, it will be on ITV, a switch that is expected to herald Walker's retirement.

With 12 months to go, the only progress ITV has made since announcing its £75 million contract is on the potentially deal-wrecking question of tobacco sponsorship. Independent Television Commission rules forbid the display of

tobacco brand names on "vehicles... likely to come within the scope of television cameras". With most cars carrying the name of one brand or another, that looked to be the black flag. But there is a crucial exception for acquired programmes where coverage of sporting events "may deviate from the code where this is unavoidable". Wheezy sighs of relief all round.

Just as the BBC and indeed Eurosport, its satellite rival, effectively buys in each foreign

grand prix from a host broadcaster, so will ITV. How they get round the code for the British Grand Prix, when ITV will be the host broadcaster, is just one of the things that a yet-to-be-appointed production company will have to consider.

Whatever ITV eventually appears as commentators, it is likely, but not yet certain, that Eurosport will continue to provide an alternative. Its contract for pan-European satellite rights to Formula One also expires at the end of this season and is currently being renegotiated. The fact that its principal shareholder, the French channel TF1, has recently agreed a multi-million franc contract for the terrestrial rights in France is expected to ease the negotiating process.

Yesterday, neither commen-

Villeneuve sees victory on Formula One debut snatched by team-mate

## Hill tracks down his grand prix heritage

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MELBOURNE

THE sound of distant voices echoed from the still life ranged from top of a workbench in the Williams-Renault garage here last night. The white ring of ears that was Graham Hill's symbol was almost obscured on his son's racing helmet, caked in oil and dirt, testimony to a grim pursuit. On the day Damon Hill snatched victory in the Australian Grand Prix and equalled the number of victories achieved by his father, determination bred in the bone brought him the prize.

For most of the weekend, Hill had played the support act to his new team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve. He was second on the grid when Villeneuve was in pole position, he was second to the first corner when Villeneuve was first and, when the Canadian debutant's car started spewing oil midway through the race, it spanned Hill's helmet and visor so liberally that he could hardly see as he tracked him lap after lap after lap.

He chased him and he chased him and he never gave up. Just when Villeneuve was almost within sight of the chequered flag, when he must have thought he had frustrated his relentless pursuer and was readying himself to enter the record books as the first driver since Giancarlo Baghetti in 1961 to win on his grand prix debut, his car's steady loss of oil forced him to slow down and Hill was past him in a flash. "The win was there," Villeneuve said, "but second in my first race is not

The romantics who had come to anoint the son of Gilles Villeneuve cursed his luck as he limped to the finish in second place, more than 38

seconds adrift. In his first four competitive days in a Williams-Renault, the reigning IndyCar champion and last year's winner of the Indianapolis 500 had established himself as a genuine contender for this year's championship and won the admiration of all who crossed his path.

His misfortune, however,

should not be allowed to obscure Hill's achievement. He stuck to Villeneuve like glue, forced him into two errors midway through the race and was in a position to launch a final assault had the need arisen and had it been considered politic to risk an accident with his team-mate and ruin a Williams-Renault one-two.

The rest of the field, sadly,

were simply not in the same league. Eddie Irvine, in his Ferrari, was third, more than a minute behind; his team-mate, the double world champion, Michael Schumacher, the victim of brake problems, was forced into what may be the first of a series of early retirements on the 32nd lap and Jean Alesi, in his Benetton-Renault, betrayed alarming signs of continuing impetuosity by trying a hopelessly optimistic overtaking manoeuvre on Irvine after nine laps, tearing off one side of his car.

On yesterday's evidence, at least, with Benetton struggling without Schumacher, it seems that Hill and Villeneuve may find themselves embroiled in a season-long two-horse race for the title and although Hill admitted it was "very, very special" to equal his father's total of 14 wins, he attached greater significance to opening up an early lead in the drivers' championship.

Villeneuve, who on Saturday had become only the fourth driver in grand prix



Hill, left, consoles Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault team-mate, after their tussle in the Australian Grand Prix

my father's record," Hill said. "I am not sure what to make of it, but when they draw up the lists of grand prix winners now, I will be level with him and that will be nice. Now, I have just got to try to match his two world championships."

The most important thing was the win. It is a long time since I was leading the world championship and I feel on top of the world. I don't think there is going to be anything given away between Jacques and I this season. He has shown he is a racer. We had a good race, a thriller. I was just keeping gentle pressure on him throughout the race and if that had not worked, I would have tried a bit more."

Villeneuve, who on Saturday had become only the fourth driver in grand prix

history to claim pole position for his first race, got away to a fine start but was forced to repeat the feat when a restart was required after Martin Brundle's spectacular first lap somersault.

Villeneuve, Hill and Schumacher hurtled through the first third of the race with barely two seconds separating

them, but when the German made his first pit stop after 20 laps and both Williams stayed out, it became apparent he had been travelling with a lighter fuel load. From then on, Schumacher was never in contention.

Hill appeared to have

grabbed a crucial advantage

when he emerged from his

only pit-stop just in front of the Canadian, who had stopped two laps earlier, but Villeneuve overtook him immediately. When the Englishman pressured him into making a mistake that sent him skimming over a kerb and on to the grass, but did not press home the advantage, it seemed his chance might have gone. Then Villeneuve's failing oil pressure intervened.

When they got back to the pits, Hill hugged Villeneuve and Schumacher turned up to offer his congratulations to Irvine before he had even taken off his helmet. When they asked the Ulsterman afterwards what his teammate had said to him, Irvine said he had the last laugh. "I don't know," he said. "I couldn't hear him."

### DETAILS FROM MELBOURNE

**RESULT:** 1. D Hill (GB) Williams Renault, 2. J. Villeneuve (CA) Williams Renault, 3. E. Irvine (GB) Ferrari, 4. M. Schumacher (GER) Benetton Renault, 5. M. Hakkinen (FIN) McLaren Mercedes, 6. S. Nakajima (JPN) Tyrrell Yamaha, 7. O. Panis (FRA) Ligier Mugen-Honda, 8. H.H. Frenzen (GER) Sauber Ford. **CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS:** DIVISION ONE: Hill 10pts; Villeneuve 6; Irvine 4; Benetton 3; Williams 2; Sauber 1; Williams 16pts; Panis 4; Benetton 3; McLaren 2; Tyrrell 1.

## Simon dominates during golden age

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN DORTMUND

HUGO SIMON, of Austria, at 53 the oldest competitor at the Dortmund International Show, brought the Westfalenhalle audience to its feet when he and the nine-year-old Hanoverian, ET, won the Volvo World Cup showjumping qualifier on Saturday after a breathtaking round against the clock.

John Whitaker, on Welham, the only Briton to reach the jump-off, finished in eleventh place on four faults and now looks poised for a place in the World Cup final in Geneva next month. He has moved up to joint-sixteenth place in the Western European League, from which the leading 19 qualify.

Eddie Macken, of Ireland, was the first to jump clear in less than 40 seconds when he and Miss FAN went into the lead in a time of 38.88sec. Roger-Yves Bost, of France, promptly took 0.28sec off his time on his Olympic contender, Souviens Toi.

The world champion, Franck Sloothaak, from Germany, then raised the temperature when he and Weiwei went into the lead with a devastating performance, finishing in 37.91sec, but that simply gave Simon, the last to go, the type of

## White and Wattana out of sorts

WHEN the leading snooker players ventured to the Far East for the Thailand Classic in September to begin the 1995-96 ranking tournament campaign, few could have imagined that, with only three counting events left this season, Jimmy White and James Wattana would both be in danger of relegation from the top 16 (Phil Yates writes).

Of the two, White is undoubtedly in deepest trouble.

Having been eliminated in the first round of the International Open and European Open in recent weeks, he has fallen to eighteenth in the latest provisional standings and his unbroken 14-year inclusion in the top 16 is clearly in jeopardy.

The pressure mounts with each early exit and White's cause is not aided by a tough first match in the Thailand Open, which begins today. He faces Jamie Burnett, 20, from Scotland, who, in qualifying for this event in January, beat Mark Williams, the Regal Welsh Open champion.

Wattana is down fifth to fourteenth on the provisional list this season and his immediate objective, rather than winning this tournament for the third year in succession, will merely be to survive his opening match against Steve James.

Results, page 30

## St Helens play it safe to achieve twin ambition

St Helens ..... 24

Widnes ..... 14

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS applied the self-restraint felt necessary on Saturday in order not to jeopardise a long-awaited return to Wembley in rugby League's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, on April 27.

On Wembley's broad pasture, the temptation will be to remove the balls and chains attached to their speedsters in the first semi-final or Wigan. As effective as St Helens' footloose was in grinding down admirable Widnes resistance, Leeds or Bradford are less likely to yield to the same approach.

It was still an important win for St Helens, who have played prettily in previous semi-finals and lost. A Wigan-free Challenge Cup was too good an opportunity to throw away on attacking whirrs. Shaun McRae, St Helens' new Australian coach, is applying expedient principles to a side fed up of gallant failure. "I think it proved that defence can win ball games and not scoring 40 or 50 points," McRae said.

A couple of the greyhounds,

Sullivan and Hunte, slipped

the other end and St Helens

breadth more easily.

Only at the beginning and very end of an absorbing contest were St Helens decisively on top. Between

Sullivan's opening try and Northey's victorious late charge to the line, the opposition forwards imposed themselves for long periods.

McCurrie, who is joining the Australian Rugby League, will be sorely missed by Widnes. His authority was immense, as were the tireless displays of the Huilme brothers, Hansen and Gartland. The problem was that their tries by Spruce, Devereux and David Huilme came in reply to points by St Helens.

One statistic of 41 tackles in the second row by Joynt, reduced almost to crawling pace by the finish, summed up for St Helens the pragmatism rather than panache, for which, rightly, no apologies were offered.

Scorers: St Helens: Tries: Sullivan, Hunte, Northey, Gartland, Devereux, D Huilme. Goals: Tynes. ST HELENS: S. Spruce, A. Hunte (sub P. Vasey), S. Gartland, P. Devereux, A. Spruce, K. Hansen, R. McCullough, A. Perrett (try V. Matasita), G. C. Kunningham, A. Lofaham, C. Joynt, S. Booth, A. McCullough. WIDNES: S. Spruce, J. Devereux, D. Huilme, A. Thomas (sub J. Cassidy), G. Vasey, S. Cooper, C. Moller (sub Myler), P. D. Hulme, C. Joynt, S. McCullough, R. Smith.

## Gooding recovers

REAL TENNIS: Mike Gooding, the Hatfield House professional, finished level at two sets all on the first day of his world championship final eliminator in Melbourne against the former world champion, Wayne Davies, yesterday. Gooding, the only British challenger for Robert Fuhey's world title, recovered after losing the first set of the best-of-13-set match 6-4 and came back again to go into the second day on level terms.

## Clewlow earns draw

HOCKEY: A 36th-minute goal by Melanie Clewlow, the Canterbury mid-field player, secured a 1-1 draw for England against Ireland at the UCD Belfield ground in Dublin yesterday. Clewlow, playing in only her second international, hit a powerful shot from the edge of the circle after Kathryn James's effort had been parried by the goalkeeper. Ireland had taken the lead in the sixteenth minute when Sarah Kelleher scored from a penalty corner.

	Depth L U	Conditions Piste Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
CANADA					
Lake Louise	135	175	good	heavy	cloud
				(Snow a little heavy but skiing mostly good)	
FRANCE					
Avoriaz	155	195	varied	slushy	sun -2
				(Piste generally good challenging moguls on steep runs)	
Flaine	55	232	good	varied	warm sun
SWITZERLAND					
C Montreux	15	250	good	heavy	warm sun -2
				(Typical spring conditions, good light, patchy low down)	
Klosters	10	175	good	varied	fairly warm sun 2
				(Pistes holding up well to heavy usage)	
Mürren	40	140	fair	heavy	warm sun 0
UNITED STATES					
Vail	185	250	good	varied	fairly warm sun -7
				(Good skiing on majority of slopes)	

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper, art - artificial

4

As one England captain confronts World Cup failure, another ends a glorious chapter

## Take a seat, Michael, and see Les Misérables



**Michael Henderson pens an open letter to an old friend, imploring him to smile again**

**D**ear Michael, It has been said that indignation is the highest form of love, so please do not be offended by the tone of this letter. Many people are indignant about England's miserable display in this World Cup and, now that your involvement is over, it is surely permissible to offer some thoughts.

You will not disagree that it was miserable, though you may be alarmed that few cricket-lovers, in England or

anywhere, were surprised by your team's woeful performance. Well, being on stage and sitting in the audience have always yielded different views and you are not always the most flexible of men. I would urge you to take a seat in the stalls for a while; you might well get a different picture.

When we last met in London, shortly before England left for Pakistan, I gave you a postcard I had brought back from Boston. It was an early Rembrandt painting and I told you: "Look at this for a month; it will be a lot better than looking at the England card." We had a jolly good laugh about it.

Nobody is laughing now, except at the incompetence of England's cricket, for which you, as captain, cannot avoid responsibility. You are not on your own, of course, but the captain sets the tone of the side and the cricket played

You turn 28 next week and

that is far too young to become a sourpuss. Privately you are excellent company, interested in people and curious about things outside cricket. Why not show something of that personality when you are asked to speak on radio, or appear on television. You are the captain of England, for goodness sake...

Your conduct in Faisalabad on Saturday had no mark of grace. Jayasuriya played an innings that was brilliant by

any reckoning, yet you chose not to applaud him from the field. It doesn't cost a thing to observe the niceties of the game and, if you think that is being soft, then the game still has much to teach you.

You read History at Cambridge, so you will be familiar with the observation about the Bourbons, who never forgot anything and never learnt anything. It is time you learnt from your own experiences that waging a private

war does not make edifying public viewing. All right, you have been done down by newspapers in the past and there are journalists you would willingly run over in a fast car. Ignore them. Better by far to crack on and speak to people above their heads.

It may be that you are poorly advised, though that is doubtful. Jon Holmes, who looks after Will Carling, is also your agent and enjoys a good reputation. He also

knows, from his dealings with Gary Lineker and David Gower, how to bathe sportsmen in the flattering light of public acclaim.

Have a look at that card again. You'll see a painter looking at a canvas which is blank. Our eyes are on the artist, wondering how he is going to fill it. Our eyes are now on you, wondering how you will transfer something of your private warmth into your difficult, very public job.

That is all. I hope you will be more successful in the future.

Yours ever, Michael Henderson

John Giles

DAVID CANNON / ALLSPORT

JOHN GILES

JO

Time for Crazy Gang to grow up

## Antics of Harford show Wimbledon in their true light

Chelsea ..... 2  
Wimbledon ..... 2

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

**TYPICAL** Just when you were developing a sneaking affection for Wimbledon, they go and ruin it. Not by their football, which at times in this rumbustious cup tie bordered on the elegant, nor by their bravado, which was as rampant as ever, but by their unremittingly boorish behaviour.

The sight of Mick Harford haranguing and abusing Peter Jones, the reserve official, the linesman and then the Chelsea bench after Gullit's free kick had put the home team ahead, was enough to make any neural in the crowd pray that Wembley in May will not be the setting for another chunk of us-against-the-world paranoiac. Even the Wimbledon physio, face contorted with rage, could be seen jabbing a finger at officials. Team spirit run riot. All for one, for all.

Later, with utter predictability, came the justification. "I've watched a lot of football and I cannot remember another incident like it," Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said. "Most of my players were disappointed with it because Steve Clarke did exactly the same and no free kick was given."

The decision that so angered Wimbledon concerned a back

pass by Cunningham. Graham Poll, the referee, deemed it deliberate, so penalised the goalkeeper for picking the ball up, quite rightly as the cameras proved. But Wimbledon had already decided they would get no justice from the league's most prolific disciplinarian, who has sent off three Wimbledon players this season and had soon dusted down their persecution complex. "The last time I got anything away from home, I did Chelsea. Some of the passing in midfield, where the quicksilver Leonardsen was prominent, was positively picturesque and the speed of their counter-attacks left Chelsea in some disarray, happy to reach half-time on level terms.

Gullit, who, despite scoring off Jones's caff, had one of his less influential afternoons, was critical of his side's attitude. "We gave them too much respect," Gullit said. "When we played our game more aggressively, thought more about ourselves and went for it, we created chances and played some good football."

Twice in the opening 20 minutes, Chelsea were exposed down their right side, a header down by Goodman setting up Harford for a shot against the post and a solo effort by Leonardsen well saved by Hitchcock.

At the front, Hughes was well marshalled for the second consecutive weekend by Dean Blackwell, another product of the Wimbledon youth team, who had been pencilled in as a first-team regular when John Scales was sold to Liverpool, but tore an Achilles tendon and was out for 18 months. He has only recently returned and his partnership with Perry is already providing much needed solidity in defence.

Then there is Harford, all arms and legs and mouth, but at 37, making a much better job of servicing his front line than Spencer, recalled to play a similar role for Chelsea. What irritated Hoddle, though, apart from Harford, was his side's refusal to learn basic lessons.

At Selhurst Park last week, they fell asleep soon after scoring; they did it again on Saturday. No sooner had the celebrations for Gullit's goal died down than Holdsworth headed in Kimble's free kick for the equaliser, stunning the posse on the Wimbledon bench, who were too busy arguing to notice, and disappointing the unbiased, who did. After all, who would you rather have gracing the final at Wembley, Gullit or Harford?

**CHELSEA** (4-4-2) N. Hitchcock — M. Duberry, B. Clark, B. Johnson — D. Petrecek, R. Gullit, D. Wise, T. Phelan — J. Spencer (sub: G. Pease), J. Scales (sub: N. Sutcliffe) — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Keown, S. Earle, V. Jones, O. Leonardsen, M. Harford (sub: D. Hockenhull), J. Goodman (sub: D. Holdsworth). Referee: G. Poll.

**WIMBLEDON** (4-3-3) N. Sulivan — K. Wilson, D. Wilson, N. Spence — J. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Keown, S. Earle, V. Jones, O. Leonardsen, M. Harford (sub: D. Gayle), J. Goodman (sub: D. Holdsworth). Referee: G. Poll.

## Unsettled Wright may join Chelsea

BY JOHN GOODBODY

**CHELSEA** are the favourites to sign Ian Wright if the Arsenal board agree to release the forward who has been the Highbury club's leading goalscorer over the last five years.

Wright, 32, who is valued at £3 million, has handed in a written transfer request after several disagreements with Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager.

Wright said: "I am not happy at Arsenal any more. Certain things have happened this season which have upset me. Rioch has his own ideas on how he wants to play the game. Unfortunately, I do not think it fits into the system he wants to play."

"However, you do not walk out on a great club like Arsenal in an afternoon. I spent ages trying to sort out in my mind what to do for the best. It was a difficult and sad decision for me."

Rioch has already tried to smooth over the difficulties with Wright by making him captain in the absence

through injury of Tony Adams. However, Rioch will face an awkward choice for the FA Carling Premiership game at Wimbledon on Saturday when Wright fit and free from suspension, will challenge Dennis Bergkamp and John Hartson, who has scored three goals in the last three games, for the two places in Arsenal's attack.

Wright has scored 19 goals for Arsenal this season to continue his fine record since he joined the club in 1991. He was a member of the team that won the unique double of the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup in 1993.

The England international, who is under contract at Highbury until he is 36, is understood to have been strongly supported during his time at Highbury by David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman. However, he has irritated everyone at the club with his poor disciplinary record, which has frequently meant that he has had to miss important games.

However, you do not walk out on a great club like Arsenal in an afternoon. I spent ages trying to sort out in my mind what to do for the best. It was a difficult and sad decision for me."

Rioch has already tried to

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Simon Barnes sees Middlesbrough's men from Brazil struggle to make an impact

# Experiment failing to counter pull of gravity

To be relegated with one Brazil international in your team could be regarded as a misfortune; to be relegated with two would look like carelessness. Middlesbrough went to West Ham United with Branco and Juninho and still lost, for the tenth time in the last 11 games. The other was a 0-0 draw.

Odd to recall that Middlesbrough began the season by winning nine of the first ten and, in October, reached the dizzy heights of fourth. A casual glance at the table suggests they are safe, but not when you recall how much downward momentum they possess.

It was a connoisseur's collection of subs down in the East End on Saturday. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, put both his Brazilians on the bench — not, one imagines, because competition for places is so intense that a man with 85 caps for Brazil cannot get in the team.

No, Branco has not played a full game since mid-December and is short of fitness, and Juninho had flown in from Brazil that morning after taking part in the Olympic Games qualifying tournament. West Ham responded with some spirited subbing of their own: Dumitrescu, 52 caps for Romania and at last granted his foolishly-delayed work permit, and Dani, the Portuguese prodigy.

Testing times for Middlesbrough and, as people often do, they responded to adversity by going silly. In football, you get awfully exposed when you go silly — and that counts twice over for goalies. The game was a minute old when it was put beyond Middlesbrough's reach by their own goalkeeper, Walsh.

What possesses goalies to get up to gaudy monkey tricks of ball-juggling in the goalmouth? There seems to be a self-destructive streak in all goalkeepers; perhaps you can't be a goalie without one. Any-

way, Walsh took Cox's hurried back-pass and flicked the ball sweetly from one foot to the other for a nonchalant volleyed clearance. Or rather, he tried to and made a hash if it. Cox — I wonder how many goals have been conceded by players who have underestimated his speed of thought in the penalty area — zoomed in on the error and Dowie tucked the loose ball home. West Ham proceeded to dominate and should have settled matters long before they did.

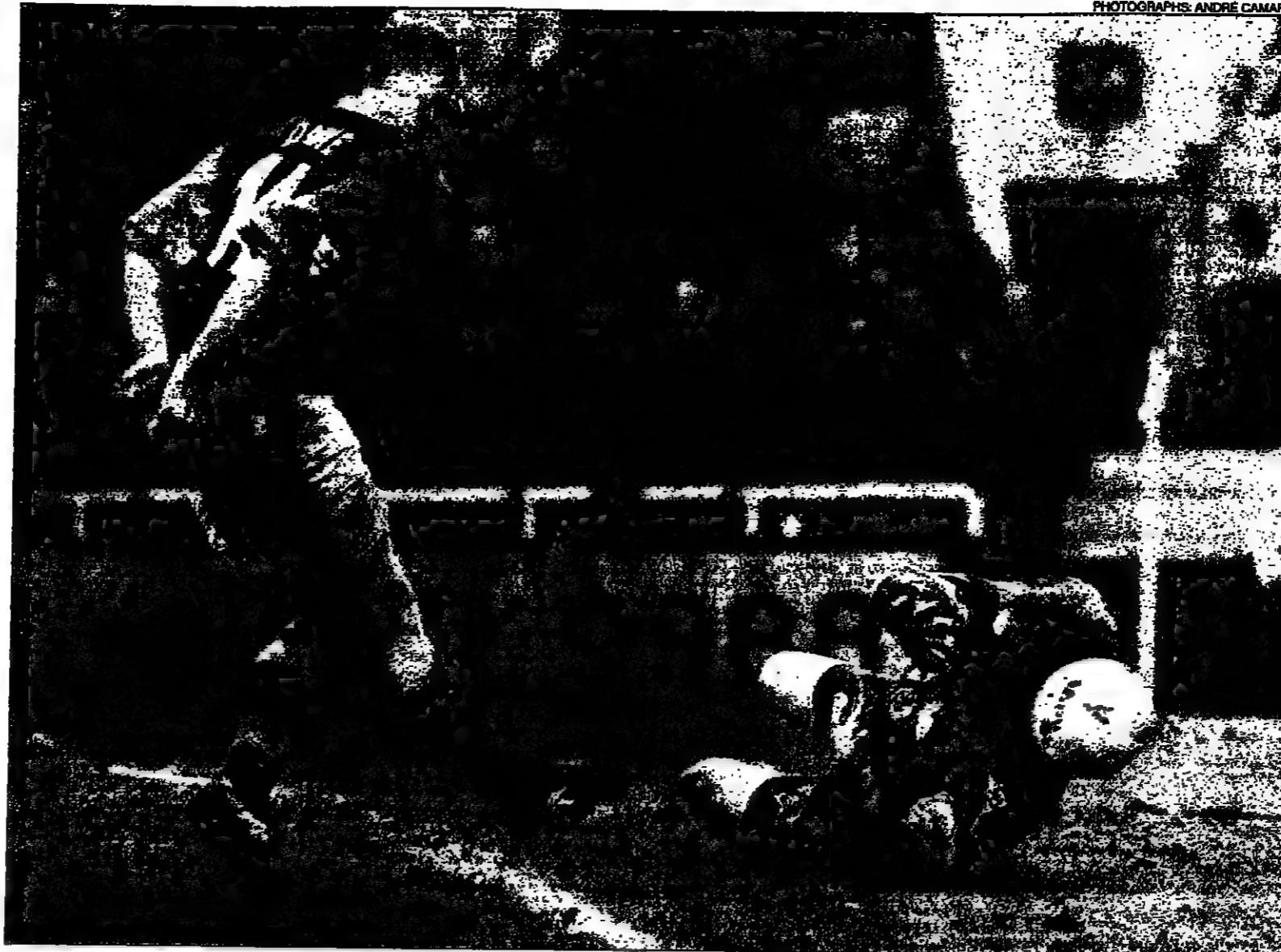
As it was, they needed a dodgy penalty. The ball struck a divot and bounced up to hit Cox on the arm. The referee, who could only have decided that Cox had taken leave of his senses, awarded a penalty and Dicks despatched it with a left-footed thump.

So it was time for the Brazilians. Juninho appeared on the hour and Branco ten minutes later. Odd it was to see how unassimilable the little Brazilian has been. Some of the exotisms of the season have been unqualified successes: Juninho, supposed to be one of the greatest players in the world and the Premiership coup of the season, has had a negligible effect on his team.

In his early days at Chelsea, Gullit was always sending immaculate balls to colleagues who failed to control them, passes to players who were not running into the right spaces or making himself available for passes that never came. But there is a didactic streak in Gullit and a large and self-confident personality as well. He has educated his team.

Juninho, younger and lacking Gullit's authority, remains an outsider. Brilliant touches, swooping runs, but his colleagues don't seem to know what to do about him. He seems out of place, too good for the company he is in.

It is a bit like meeting Einstein at the pub. "Yes, but how much choice did God have in creating the universe?" Blimey, listen to him, he



Walsh, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, is confronted by Dowie, scorer of the first goal in West Ham United's 2-0 victory at Upton Park

doesn't half go on. I reckon

Brando will go down, don't you?

Or perhaps I am wrong,

and it is not incomprehension

but admiration — Juninho's

colleagues just stop and watch

him play. Whatever the cause,

the Brazilian Experiment isn't

working. No one seemed to

know what Branco was doing,

still less Branco himself. I

wonder: did Branco and

Juninho sit together on the

coach heading back north and

discuss the match in Portugal,

which, like their play, is

beyond the understanding of

their colleagues?

Tell me, Juninho, can any

of the Middlesbrough players

actually trap a football? And

who was that fellow with the

bad haircut playing alongside you?

"Oh, that was Barnby: he

cost £5.2 million, half a million

more than me."

"I wish you wouldn't make

jokes like that, young fellow."

"Joking? I wish I was, old

man."

Middlesbrough have eight

games left, and Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, reckoned they needed two wins to be safe. This would be a comforting thought if the task of winning one didn't look so difficult. Einstein reckoned the gravitational field was represented by curved space-time. Meanwhile, Middlesbrough, beaten 2-0 on Saturday, continue to plummet downwards.

WEST HAM (3-1-4-2): L Milosevic — S Potts, S Biles, J Dicks — I Bethwaite — T Brasier, D Williamson, K Rowland, M Huddersfield, A Costa (sub: I Dumitrescu, 70min), I Corlett, M Clegg, N Pearson, D Whyte — C Morris (sub: D McAllister, 60min), D Flanagan, G Flanagan — J A Higham (sub: Juninho, 60), N Barnby — J A French (sub: J Hendrie, 60). Referee: M Flack.



Juninho, left, and Branco await their chance to come on

## PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	29	61	+26	WWWW
2 Manchester Utd	29	60	+22	WWWW
3 Liverpool	29	55	+32	WDMW
4 Aston Villa	30	55	+14	LWWL
5 Arsenal	29	48	+12	DWWW
6 Tottenham	28	48	+10	LDLWW
7 Everton	30	47	+14	WLWD
8 Chelsea	29	43	+4	WLWW
9 Nottingham Forest	28	43	-1	WLWW
10 Blackburn	29	42	+9	WLWD
11 West Ham	29	42	-4	WWLDW
12 Leeds	27	38	-8	LLWW
13 Middlesbrough	30	34	-13	LLDL
14 Sheffield Wednesday	29	32	-10	WLWW
15 Coventry	29	27	-18	DWWDD
16 Wimbledon	28	26	-16	WLDD
17 Manchester City	29	26	-22	WLDD
18 Southampton	25	25	-13	WDDL
19 QPR	30	22	-22	LWDLW
20 Bolton	29	19	-29	LLWLW

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

Coventry can draw hope from Royle seal of approval

Everton ..... 2  
Coventry City ..... 2

By PAT GIBSON

THERE was enough blood spilt at Goodison Park to dispel any suspicion that the old pal's act might have been at work as Coventry City recovered from a two-goal deficit to take a point which could be crucial in their annual battle to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership.

Joe Royle and Ron Atkinson, the respective managers, are so close that they telephone each other several times a week to talk about how their teams are playing, but it is not that which makes Royle hope and believe that Coventry will stay in the top division for the thirtieth consecutive season.

"Our friendship has got nothing to do with it," Royle said. "I hope Coventry get out of trouble because they try to play and get forward, and I think they can because they score goals. That is the great thing. I know they leak goals as well, but, as long as you can score, you can always win a game. Looking at the teams around them, they seem to be struggling because they don't score enough."

This match proved his point. Most teams in Coventry's position would have thrown in the towel after they had conceded two goals in the opening 25 minutes to the rampant Ferguson, the first a classic header from Hinchliffe's cross, the second a clever finish after Stuart's flick had sent him striding clear of the visitors' defence.

Coventry, however, pressed on in the belief that they could get back into the game and they were rewarded when a brave diving header by Whelan forced Southall into a magnificent save. Whelan suffered a gashed temple that needed six stitches, but, as he was led from the field, Daish headed in the resultant corner and Atkinson said: "All credit to the lad. As he went off, I shouted to him: 'Hey, you've just got us a goal through your bravery!'"

It was the turn of Short, Coventry's central defender, to show his courage in the second half. He had to go to the touchline three times for treatment after sustaining a cut above his nose before the referee eventually decided he had seen enough blood for one day and ordered him off for good two minutes from the end, but it was all to no avail.

Coventry had already scored the equaliser they deserved when Williams's header went in off Short's shoulder, leaving Atkinson, as flippant as ever, to say: "We made it hard for ourselves but that's our game. We don't like anybody to leave until we've finished."

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Horng, C Short (sub: J Connor 88min), D Howarth, A Hinchliffe, A Sanchez, S Ferris, M Draper, A Townsend (sub: G Strelak 89min), R Wright — D Yorke, S Miles, S Milner, J Edwards — D Ferguson, G Stuart.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS (4-3-3): J Somer — D Bardsley, K Rooley, S Yates, R Brunt, S Jones, L Arnott, N Clashe (sub: G Goode, 88min), P Hartley — T Sinclair, K Galien, D Deod.

Referee: P Dawson

## Villa reward blind loyalty of their immovable followers



Aston Villa ..... 4  
Queens Park Rangers ... 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ANOTHER frustrating afternoon for Reg Thacker, Aston Villa enthusiast since 1955, regular supporter for 20 years and current season-ticket holder. Reg Thacker, programme dealer; Reg Thacker, the man who never misses a match at Villa Park ... and never sees one.

Every football club, up and down the country, has a Reg Thacker. The ever-so-eager, always-doing-his-bit loyalist

who, come rain or shine, is there in position. If it means sacrificing personal pleasure for the greater good, so be it.

When Villa are, more often than not, cashing in on the pitch, Thacker is cashing up at his Trinity Road kiosk. Apart from the occasional glimpse on a nearby television monitor, he has little but the cheers of the crowd to guide him.

"I do miss the football, especially this season," he said. "People at the game come and talk to me about it as though I've seen it myself. They don't realise I've seen nothing."

Thacker was better served

dusting his programmes and counting his pennies for most of the first half on Saturday, when Villa had their minds more on the forthcoming Coca-Cola Cup final with Leeds United than making progress in the FA Carling Premiership.

Against a Queens Park Rangers side ploughing inexorably into the Endsleigh Insurance League, the only saving grace was Milosevic's nineteenth-minute goal — his third in three matches. An exchange of passes with Yorke and a subtle toe-poke did the rest.

In the second half, Rangers

responded by equalising and then going ahead in the space of nine minutes. Dicchio volleyed in from McGrath's sliced clearance and then Galen produced a similar finish after Bosnich had beaten away Hardsley's drive.

"At half-time, I felt we had

at least five or ten per cent

more to offer," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said. "There was a little something, somewhere, crying to come out, but it didn't emerge until they had scored."

Emerge it did. Villa's indifference suddenly transformed into urgency, with the overlapping Charles supplying the

Coca-Cola Cup final and an FA Cup quarter-final against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Wednesday. Should their cup run end in tears, they will probably still qualify for Europe next season via a high finish in the Premiership. A rich reward, and programmes galore, for Reg Thacker.

Ray Wilkins, the Rangers player-manager, again spoke of the defensive errors, individual mistakes and ill-fortune that had dogged his side all season. "You can get away with it in the lower divisions, but not in the Premiership. You get punished," he said.

As the last rites descend on

Rangers, Villa look forward to

the Coca-Cola Cup final and a

FA Cup quarter-final against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Wednesday. Should their cup run end in tears, they will probably still qualify for Europe next season via a high finish in the Premiership. A rich reward, and programmes galore, for Reg Thacker.

THEIR 50 win against Grimsby Town last Tuesday, Crystal Palace had risen largely without trace. A repeat of that scoreline never looked likely at Selhurst Park on Saturday, but a narrow victory over West Bromwich Albion kept the home team in a play-off position in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division.

The possibility of an instant return to the Premiership for Palace would have seemed widely improbable a few weeks ago. However, the improbable is a speciality of Dave Bassett, whose appointment as manager has coincided with a significant improvement in the team's previously disappointing home form. A side minus most of last season's big names, wading through a congested fixture list on a heavily over-used pitch? No problem, surely, for the man who took Wimbledon into the old first division.

Contrast with the over-elaboration of Edwards's opposite number, Guenichev, who played for Bulgaria in the last World Cup. Sent clear early in the second half, he carried the ball to one side of Francis, Huddersfield's goalkeeper, but rather than trusting himself to shoot, instead vainly attempted a back heel into the path of a colleague. Luton are a team much in need of a goalscorer such as Edwards.

There is a muscularity about Huddersfield's football that reflects their manager's style as a player. Brian Horton's best years were spent captaining Luton under Pleat, counter-pointing from midfield the more intricate skills of the likes of Paul Walsh, Ricky Hill and David Moss, who is now the coach at Huddersfield.

This is not to say that Horton does not appreciate

the something Palace had

on Saturday, and the main difference between two lacklustre outfits, was the former Barnet forward, Dougie Freedman. While Taylor and Hunt waited in vain for service from the West Bromwich midfield, Freedman was happy to do his own foraging where necessary and, in possession, had the confidence and imagination to start and finish attacks.

"He's got a bit of the unexpected about him," his manager said. "He does a lot

of good work around the halfway line and up to the penalty area. I've been on to him about getting in the box to score more goals."

He clearly did not need telling twice. After a midweek





# Tune in to choose Britain's greatest sports star

**S**port touches a raw nerve. Walk into a crowded room and announce who you believe to be the greatest politician of all time, and you will be at best ignored. However, try proclaiming who you think the greatest sportsman or woman in Britain is, and a heated, passionate debate will ensue.

Tonight and every Monday night for 12 weeks, Channel 4, in association with *The Times*, will ask viewers to assess who is the best British sports personality of this century. *The Greatest* is a new series offering the opportunity to vote for the greatest sporting hero Britain has produced. Take part and you could win a pair of tickets to one of the big sporting events of 1996, such as the European football championship finals, and the top prize is a dream trip to the

Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson as your host.

This evening's programme will reveal the shortlisted 20 sportsmen and women – bound to stir up controversy in itself – and explain how the sports personalities should be judged. The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer.

Viewers and readers of *The Times* will be asked to score each sportsperson in terms of achievement, dominance, style, fortitude and impact. This evening, Daley Thompson, who had the idea for the series, will help to explain the five categories. Fortitude, for example, encompasses the individual's ability to cope with



pressure, his will to win, self-control and sporting intelligence. Nigel Mansell might, for example, score more highly in this category than, say, David Gower.

There is no way any viewer will be able to put aside their own prejudices completely – we all have our heroes, our favourite sports – but *The*

**Which of our sporting winners outshines all the rest? *The Times* and Channel 4 offer you the chance to have the last word**

*Greatest* will open your eyes to achievements and personalities that you may not otherwise have considered worthy of being called great. As Thompson, who could himself be on the final shortlist, says it is not a personality contest.

Neither is it an opportunity to reward only great sporting achievements of the past 12 months. As all eyes turn to Frank Bruno's World Boxing Council heavyweight bout with Mike Tyson, it will be tempting, particularly should Bruno win, for viewers to clamour for the already popular boxer to be acclaimed the

greatest. Tonight, Thompson will tell viewers to be more dispassionate as they choose who should take that title.

The final shortlist contains sporting figures from the early part of this century as well as those who have recently entered the sporting hall of fame. From next week, two contenders will be profiled in depth over ten programmes and their relative merits discussed by the expert panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of *Total Sport* magazine and, each week, a different guest celebrity. Chairing the debate will be



Gordon Kennedy, best known for presenting *The National Lottery Live*.

From next Monday, each programme will ask you to cast your vote. Readers of *The Times* can register their scores via the telephone featured at the end of each programme or use the special entry form which will be printed every

Monday in our sports section.

Each week, Channel 4 will give away a pair of tickets to a leading sporting event to the viewer or reader whose vote matches the average mark for that week's profiled sporting personalities. The ten runners-up will each receive a signed copy of Thompson's book, *The Greatest*, which accompanies the series. It is published by Boxtree and retails at £14.99.

At the end of the series, the weekly winners will be given the chance to win that trip to the Olympic Games.

Readers can also experience the heat of the debate firsthand. We are giving away 50 pairs of tickets to watch *The Greatest* being recorded. The first ten winners drawn will, in addition, win a signed copy of Thompson's book. Simply answer correctly the following

question: Who maintained that he was the greatest boxer of all time?

Send your answer on a postcard, or on the back of a sealed envelope, together with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: See the Greatest Competition, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY. Entries should arrive by March 18. The first ten correct entries drawn after the closing date will win a copy of *The Greatest* by Daley Thompson, and a pair of tickets to the recording of the show in West London on April 10. The next 40 correct entries will each win a pair of tickets to the show. Expenses are not included. Usual rules apply for competitions in *The Times*. The Greatest will be screened on Mondays at 8.30pm on Channel 4, starting tonight.

**Humiliating experience in World Cup raises important issues of management and structure**

## Illingworth unable to draw on his fund of knowledge

**T**here will be no bunting in the streets for the homecoming of England's cricketers, no warmly welcoming crowds. Instead, a television poll is asking its viewers whether the captain and manager should lose their jobs and the Test and County Cricket Board has risen to its full height of denunciation and, with staggering originality, set up a working party to discover what is going wrong.

The World Cup campaign, terminated in appropriately tame fashion on Saturday, has been a humiliation. English cricket and its conservatism has been exposed as never before. It may only be one-day cricket, but this was a devastating indictment of outdated coaching, blinkered methods and bungled application. It was so shambolic that some involved may not be seen again at this level.

Raymond Illingworth and Michael Atherton are not flying home under any illusions. Both acknowledge the possibility of being dismissed. In Atherton's case, this is unduly pessimistic. He is not the ideal captain in limited-overs cricket, for the textbook is dear to him, but he has progressed at Test level, which is more important, and the team has progressed with him. There is also no plausible alternative. Atherton must stay.

Illingworth may survive as chairman of selectors, position he said yesterday he was determined to maintain this summer. He would be unwise to feel confident. His post as team manager, however, must be relinquished. For here, as never before, were revealed the shortcomings of putting the preparation and tactics of a modern national team in the hands of a man approaching his pension.

Illingworth's bank of cricket wisdom is vast, but, in an arena such as this, too much of



**Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, on the lessons to be learnt from a campaign riddled with flaws**

it was palpably obsolete. As the tournament proceeded, he seemed to sense that he was flailing in the dark and the firmness that has been his strongest virtue declined into woolly management. He would make a point of saying that certain decisions had been left to Atherton and that critical areas of fitness and availability were out of his hands, when plainly they should not have been.

Illingworth cannot alone be held responsible for England's

thoughts had already been lost – not, I suspect, that he would have been properly employed, anyway. His all-round contribution on Saturday simply indicated, too late, the part he might have played.

The handling of Dominic Cork was bewildering. He brought the problems of his right knee into the tournament. He needed nursing. After one match, Illingworth decided Cork should have a corneal injection and the player was said to have agreed. Two days later, the plan had been abandoned and Cork carried on playing, so his breakdown before the only game that mattered was more a case of bad judgment than bad luck.

Of all the negative signals from the England camp, none was more depressing than the summons of Mark Ramprakash as the replacement for Fairbrother. That he was unlikely to play was not the point. The world was watching with scepticism and England were announcing the recruitment of a failure, one whose reputation, regrettably, is of being unable to cope.

Excuses can be made for the players' fatigue high among them. They have been away for almost five months, which is too long. Everyone says as much, yet nothing is done. Next winter, which could have been used to rest the leading players, now has upwards of four months of touring on the schedule. Madness.

The coming days will see some fanciful names promoted as candidates to succeed Illingworth. None will be lauded louder than Ian Botham and none will be more inappropriate.

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The coming days will

# Ladejo takes first step in footprints of Johnson

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN STOCKHOLM

HE HAS Michael Johnson's middle name, or thereabouts, and now he has one of his records. Duaine Ladejo retained his European indoor 400 metres championship yesterday, beating the track record held by Michael Duane Johnson. What did taking Johnson's record mean to him? "First step to the man," Ladejo replied.

The road is long to the multiple world champion, but at least Ladejo is back off the hard shoulder after a hamstring injury effectively wiped out 1995, when he was seeking to build on his 1994 European indoor and outdoor titles. The opposition was weak, but a personal best of 46.12sec, becoming the first athlete to retain the title and the biggest winning margin in 23 years combined to satisfy him.

"I'm very relaxed, very confident," Ladejo said. "There is a lot more in there — it felt like a stroll." He would have broken 46 seconds had he been able to resist the temptation to raise an arm in triumph 15 metres from the line, and keep it raised.

Johnson's track record of 46.29sec had stood for five years. He set it in 1991, going on to win his first world title that summer. Ladejo cannot wait for summer, to improve his best outdoor time, which does not do justice to his talent. His fastest is 44.94sec, the British record is 44.77sec and, he said, 44.30sec "would be nice" before going to the Olympics in Atlanta.

There, Ladejo believes, it will take 44.0sec to win a medal, so he needs to cut down his best by almost a second. He knows where some of the difference is coming from. "One of my worst attributes was my concentration," he said. "The positioning of my head, the positioning of my body, I am thinking more to make sure each stride is economic."

Britain won four medals, three on the last day, in

championships, which are more a platform for emerging, fading or second-tier talent than a showcase for Europe's strengths. Jason John, in the 60 metres on Saturday, Anthony Whiteman, in the 1,500 metres yesterday and Francis Agyepong, in the triple jump yesterday, each took his chance for a silver medal.

Whiteman was unable to stop the Spanish fleet controlling the middle-distance waters after Roberto Parra had won the 800 metres and Anacleto Jimenez the 3,000 metres. Although he took up the running 750 metres from home, Whiteman was beaten by the finishing kick of Mateo Canellas, the 1995 world indoor silver medallist.

Britain thus lost its grip on a title won in 1992 by Matthew Yates and in 1994 by David Strang.

Whiteman appears to lack a finish, though he is not convinced and, for the time being at least, will resist enlisting a specialist sprint coach to complement his work with Chris Bowman, his regular coach.

"I'm a little disappointed," Whiteman said. "I thought I had a good chance to win. Maybe I could have run it the same way I ran against Russia. On that occasion, leading from the first bend, he won in 3min 39.47sec. Yesterday, he recorded 3min 44.78sec against Canellas's 3min 44.50sec.

Agyepong jumped 16.93 metres, four centimetres behind Marius Bruzikas, of Latvia, to take his first international championship medal. Aged 30, Agyepong has more than once appeared in the food and drink section of *The Times*. He is now a chef at Christopher's in the West End, but it was while he was at Smith's, south London, that *The Times* critic said he had "an original touch and a measure of inspiration". His triple jump yesterday was in the class of his mutton broth, which, apparently, is excellent.

Having recovered their Vauxhall Conference place after three years in the Isthmian League in 1988, sold the Huish and its famed slope to Tesco and moved to the standard-setting Huish Park in 1990, all should have been set fair — yet the enthusiasm overreached the budget to the tune of £900,000 and instead condemned Yeovil to a succession of precarious seasons in the Conference before being relegated to the ICS League last season. It's been a case of the bank manager saying I will have that, the football

manager saying please I have that," Bryan Moore, the chairman, said.

The club can "now at least see the end of the tunnel" according to Moore, helped notably by the 1993 FA Cup third-round tie with Arsenal, the sales of Mark Shill to Bristol City and Malcolm McPherson to West Ham United, recent refinancing through a share issue and the loyalty of 2,000 supporters. The debt has been reduced to around £250,000.

That something is stirring on the pitch as well could be judged by the crowd of 2,758, Yeovil's largest of the season, that were drawn to Huish Park on Saturday. Confirmation of Yeovil's growing threat in a tightly-contested division could have been underlined by the league leaders.

Instead, Yeovil, caught out by a 35-yard free kick by Allan Cockram, the St Albans player-manager, on the stroke of half-time, had to work their way back into the match.

Yeovil Town 4-3-3; A Pennington — L Francis, R Nugent, G Roberts, M Engwell — S Brown, C Semmens (sub K Braybrooke), M O'Farrell, M Hare, D Bishop, L White (sub K Dillon, 87); G Howell — A Folston, S Webster, N Mood, M Howard — J Day, P Blake (sub B Blackman, 79), A Cockram, R Peters, S Clark. Referee: K Torrance.

ST ALBANS CITY 1-1-4; 1; G Howell — A Folston, S Webster, N Mood, M Howard — J Day, P Blake (sub B Blackman, 79), A Cockram, R Peters, S Clark. Referee: K Torrance.

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## Academician pitches up in Cumbria

### SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Andrew Longmore  
meets the coach who  
lured Shane Warne  
off the beach and into  
a career in cricket



Potter, on the steps of the Sedbergh pavilion, passes on his cricketing philosophy. Photograph: Carl Rutherford

not sure whether he could stand the intense physical training that is central to Potter's philosophy.

At the time, Warne's diet consisted of bread, cheese and lager. He wanted to think about it. Potter knew delay would be fatal and persuaded the beach boy to accept a place there and then. Warne perfected the flipper bowling a tennis ball down the corridor of the academy's hostel.

"He has big hands, you see, and he's very strong across the shoulders, but more than anything else, he's got a natural loop in his delivery. He's just a phenomenal natural bowler," Potter said.

By the end of the summer, it will be a surprise if a few Victorian vowels have not infiltrated the public school accents and a few typically aggressive Aussie attitudes diluted the doctrine of the MCC coaching manual. Potter arrived barely a week ago, with his wife Lorraine, but he

has already noted the reticence of his new charges to unstick the ball.

"They push forward, play with bat behind the pad, then wait for a few seconds to analyse the shot. When I used to bowl to Michael Bevan, he would just put his foot down the wicket and smash me over mid-wicket. David Hookes was the same. He wanted to make spinners frightened to bowl to him in case they got hit." Quickness of thought, speed of foot, in the field and at the wicket, these are the Potter maxims.

Neither party in this unlikely deal can quite believe their luck. Potter, because he has landed in a rural Cumbrian idyll with real enthusiasm around him; Sedbergh, because one of the world's most authoritative cricket coaches has brought fresh impetus to the school's quest for all-round sporting excellence. Sedbergh boasts more than 30 rugby internationals, includ-

ing Will Carling, and just one Test cricketer, Norman Millicham.

"We want to ensure that we are attracting some of the best young cricketers to the school and we're absolutely delighted to have someone of Jack's calibre here to help do that," Christopher Hirst, the headmaster, said. "The fact that he's coached most of the Australian team gives him real credibility. He'll be ideal for the boys."

Considering that two months ago, Potter was vainly searching maps of England trying to find signs of Sedbergh (he still pronounces it like Edberg), his arrival shows the speed with which an idle conversation at a centenary dinner turned to reality. Potter said he was interested in coaching in England, contact was made with the Headmasters' Conference Schools (HMC) and David Waller, chairman of HMC cricket, knew Sedbergh were

looking for a new coach. Potter's only stipulation was that he should be based in the north, close to his English Test protégés, Jason Gallian and Craig White.

Within weeks, he had rented out his house in Adelaide and leased his food business. He even found an "approved ancestor", his grandfather, Thomas Welborn Potter, who was born in York, to ease the passage of his work permit.

Potter's one previous visit to England was on Australia's 1994 tour, when he scored 741 runs without playing a Test. He never did play Test cricket, but his influence has been far more fundamental.

At the age of 57, hair greyed, spirit still sharp as the Cumbrian wind, Potter is more than willing to share his wealth of experience with anyone prepared to listen. The boys will be entranced. By July, they will be able to spot Warne's flipper a mile away.

## Play-off put on ice as police step in after 58 seconds

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

FOR the second time this season, police have become involved in an ice hockey match at Crowtree Leisure Centre in Sunderland. They were called to the rink on Saturday after an incident during the pre-game warm-up for the British championship play-off game between Durham Wasps and Humberside Hawks.

As a result of the incident, Bruce Bell, of the Hawks, who previously played for the Wasps, was taken to hospital with concussion, a broken nose and damage to his teeth. The game was only 58sec old, with the Hawks leading 1-0, when the police arrived and instructed the referee to stop the game and send the players to their dressing rooms for questioning.

When it became apparent that the questioning would take some time, the referee, having contacted Frank Dempster, the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) disciplinary chairman for advice, abandoned the game.

The police arrested four Humberside players for an alleged assault on the Durham captain, but he later withdrew his complaint and the players were released. The two Durham players arrested, Ross Lambert and Jonathan Weaver, were not charged, but were released on police bail to reappear on April 2. The game will be restarted this week and the 1,100 spectators who were at the abandoned game can use their original tickets or claim a refund.

In the games that were played, Sheffield Steelers were beaten by Basingstoke Bison, Nottingham Panthers narrowly beat Fife Flyers and the victorious Cardiff Devils' goal-tender, Stevie Lyle, held Newcastle Warriors scoreless. In the promotion-relegation play-offs, Milton Keynes Kings and Slough Jets, the bottom two clubs in the premier division, easily beat Guildford Flames and Dumfries Border Vikings, of the first division, and there were wins for Manchester Storm and Bracknell Bees.

Results, page 30

## Yeovil arrest steep decline

Yeovil Town ..... 1  
St Albans City ..... 1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

IT IS one of the ironies of ten years of "automatic" promotion and relegation that Yeovil Town's long-held goal of reaching the Football League has become more distant than in the days of election and re-election.

Having recovered their Vauxhall Conference place after three years in the Isthmian League in 1988, sold the Huish and its famed slope to Tesco and moved to the standard-setting Huish Park in 1990, all should have been set fair — yet the enthusiasm overreached the budget to the tune of £900,000 and instead condemned Yeovil to a succession of precarious seasons in the Conference before being relegated to the ICS League last season. It's been a case of the bank manager saying I will have that, the football

## Crutchie inspires comeback

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

ROBERT CRUTCHLEY restored Cannock's fortunes twice yesterday in the National League hockey match at Chiswick, where Hounslow eventually lost 3-2 to the championship leaders.

Hounslow took the lead first through Nurse from a short corner, and later with Fordham's goal from open play. Crutchie's second equaliser from a short corner was followed by a penalty stroke converted by Edwards six minutes from time.

Southgate came from behind twice to share four goals at home with East Grinstead in a match full of speed and commitment. Griffiths put East Grinstead in front from Head's pass in the 23rd minute, Southgate responding two minutes later with Kerry scoring on the rebound from their first short corner of the day.

Seven minutes into the second half, Cannock restored East Grinstead's lead from their fourth short corner, but, in the 56th minute, Waugh levelled the score from a similar award. Southgate, who drop to fourth in the table, will be ruing a miss in the first 20 seconds of the match, when only a lucky deflection depriving Simons of a goal.

Don Williams scored three goals for Guildford, the first from a short corner, in the 7-1 defeat of Indian Gymkhana, who will now be relegated to the second division. Trojans remained only a slim chance of survival after a surprise 1-0 victory on Saturday over Old Loughtonians.

Reading had little trouble in a 3-1 home win against Hull, for whom Boddy levelled Ashdown's seventh-minute goal. Osborn restored Reading's lead in the 29th minute from a penalty stroke and added another goal from a short corner six minutes before the end.

Dominic Maguire, of Brooklands, was taken to hospital with an eye injury after being struck by the ball in the 67th minute in the second division match against Olton and West Warwickshire. Brooklands emerged with a 2-1 victory.

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# Weather forecasts cloud outlook as Cheltenham nears

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE outcome of the Smurfit Champion Hurdle on the opening day of the Cheltenham Festival tomorrow looks to rest increasingly in the lap of the gods. After a weekend of sunshine and drying winds, which should continue today, heavy rain is due to arrive at Prestbury Park — but the weathermen cannot agree when.

According to the London Weather Centre, the Cheltenham area can expect up to half-an-inch of rain during a six-hour period tonight. If its computer projections are correct, the "fairly prolonged downpour" would almost certainly have a significant effect on the state of the ground by 3.30pm tomorrow — and the respective chances of leading runners.

However, the detailed farmers' forecast on the BBC told a different tale. One of three bands of rain due across the country this week would come to a halt through the middle of England just to the east of Wales by midday tomorrow although "we can't be entirely accurate about the position". For good measure, a Met Office presenter on another channel said simply there would be rain tomorrow.

Given the uncertainty, the ground at Cheltenham could be good and drying by the minute, or good to soft becoming softer when the best hurdlers in the land line up. No wonder Rob Hartnett of Coral commented, tongue-in-cheek:

"What a terrible thing for bookmakers now that punters don't even know what the going is likely to be."

Jamie Osborne was another who found himself between and between yesterday as he faced making one of the trickiest decisions of his career. Should he ride Mysiv, whose consistent form entitles her to finish in the first four, probably without winning, or should he opt instead for Collier Bay, potentially brilliant in the mud but far less effective on faster ground?

In the end, he plumped for Mysiv. "The ground swayed

**RICHARD EVANS**

NAP: BUCKLAND LAD  
(3.20 Plumpton)  
Next best: Southampton  
(3.30 Taunton)

me," he said. "It's good at the moment and I can't take a chance on the rain arriving in time. Some people may think it was a very straightforward choice but it wasn't because I think Collier Bay is grossly over-priced and a very under-rated horse. Whichever way I went, I was going to upset someone, but both parties were very loyal to me."

Jim Old, who is likely to choose Graham Bradley for Collier Bay, walked around Cheltenham yesterday afternoon and was pleased with what he found. "It's absolutely

perfect ground and a level playing field for everybody. Fast ground horses will not be inconvenienced and there will be no jar for soft ground runners. Obviously, if it gets softer that would be to the advantage of Collier Bay and some others."

If the rain does arrive in time, the supporters of Alderbrook, the defending champion, will take heart. Kim Bailey's hurdler has drifted in the betting recently and William Hill pushed him out to 11-10 yesterday. "We can't give the horse away," David Flood, the bookmaker's spokesman, said. "He won his trial impressively and I wouldn't normally want to field against him but the punters just don't want him."

Martin Pipe is more optimistic about Draborgie running in the Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase tomorrow. The mare pulled up stiff on Friday morning but Pipe reported: "It's still early days and we don't have to decide until tomorrow morning but we are now quite hopeful. She'll only take part if I am satisfied she is 100 per cent over the setback."

Treasure Again, entered in the Coral Cup on Wednesday and the Stayers' Hurdle the next day, may run in both races. The Merritt Jones-trained hurdler is certain to run in the handicap over an extended 2½ miles and will also be declared for the longer contest.

FORGET sentiment, forget his almost hysterical following and forget the charm of his connections. Danoli, at the 5-1 generally available, is an outstanding bet for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham tomorrow.

Alderbrook, last year's winner, dominates the betting but at cramped odds is worth opposing. His win at Kempton was impressive, the substance of the form less appealing. Add the likelihood of good ground — Alderbrook has a preference for give — and he could be vulnerable.

Danoli and the Aidan O'Brien-trained Hotel Minella are the alternatives and represent value. Hotel Minella has a high cruising speed, loves good ground and has Charlie Swan on board, but he also looks a type that needs everything to go exactly right.

Danoli is different. Teak tough, able to go on most types of ground and with the touch of class that gave him third place last year after an interrupted preparation, he has few question marks against him except perhaps one. Is he better than ever?

Tom Foley is too shrewd to say so publicly but his quiet confidence is persuasive. "We ran last year knowing he needed the race," he said.

"This time it's completely different and, unless the ground is as hard as the street, we won't be blaming it."

Conor O'Dwyer, his jockey, has never had a Cheltenham winner but he will carry most Irish hopes in the principal chases. Given the doubts about One Man's ability to stay and act on the track, Imperial Call is a good each-way bet in the Gold Cup. Fergie Sutherland's seven-year-old was impressive in the Punchestown last spring.

# Danoli has hallmark of champion

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT



Danoli carries Ireland's hopes in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival tomorrow

Hennessy at Leopardstown, has no stamina doubts, jumps brilliantly and, like Danoli, will act on any ground other than rock hard.

However, it is significant that O'Dwyer considers his best winning chance to be Strong Platinum in the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Last time, Strong Platinum was beaten by the ordinary Opera Hat at Naas, but that can be blamed on the soft ground. The faster the surface, the better for Strong Platinum, who defeated Sound Man and Kieran Davis at Punchestown last spring.

"He is the horse they have to beat if he gets his ground," O'Dwyer said. "I fear Viking Flagship more than Sound Man but if Strong Platinum reproduces his Punchestown form, and I think he can, I will be confident."

British horses can dominate the novice races over both hurdles and fences. That's My Man's death leaves the Irish novice hurdlers looking only average. Urubanda in the Sun Alliance Hurdle and Dance Beat in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle could prove the best of them. Draborgie, assuming she

runs looks beaten in the Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy, but it is difficult to know who can take advantage. Manhattan Castle looks best of the Irish but he sweated up badly at the Festival last year and his jumping can be questioned.

Willie Mullins' Wither Or Which will be the big Irish fancy in the bumper and on soft ground he looks almost unbeatable. However, concerns about his chance are increasing as the ground turns good and the Noel Meade-trained Charlie Foxrot may be better value.

Derrymoyle will carry high hopes in the Stayers' Hurdle, but will he stay? Any horse good enough to be placed in The Ladbrooke, over Leopardstown's sharp two miles, may have too much speed to last three miles and half a furlong. A little each-way on Treble Bob in this race looks the better option.

Time For A Run, trained by Edward O'Grady, goes for a second win in the Coral Cup but in the handicap hurdlies a better Irish prospect may be stable companion No When To Run in tomorrow's Hamlet Cigars Gold Card Hurdle.

## TAUNTON

### THUNDERER

2.00 Jefferies	3.30 Southampton
2.30 Uncle Bart	4.00 Art Tetum
3.00 Queens Contractor	4.30 Father Downing
Cari Evans: 4.50 Granville Guest.	6.00 HE'S A KING (nap)

BETTING: 2-1 Jefferies, 5-2 Uncle Bart, 6-1 Cari Evans, 8-1 Granville Guest.

### GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. No — bared. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

102 11344 GREENS FAR 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... J. Power (8) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

103 11345 MALLEYMAN 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... M. McEvoy (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

104 11346 MALMERSKIRK 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

105 11347 MARY'S DREAM 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... J. Power (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

106 11348 PUPPY CALL 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

107 11349 RORY'S TYPHOON 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

108 11350 ROBINSON CORRIS 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

109 11351 SAWASDAH 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

110 11352 SPURRIER 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

111 11353 STAYING ON 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
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112 11354 TAKENOMI 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
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117 11359 TAKENOMI 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
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118 11360 TAKENOMI 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

119 11361 TAKENOMI 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

120 11362 TAKENOMI 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
Racecard number. See-Spare horse (7) — left. P — pulled up. U — unseated. D — down. S — suspended. T — tailed. Days since last outing. F = fat (blinders). V = vice. H — head. E — Eyes. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance

121 11363 TAKENOMI 13 (SF,F,S) Mrs D Holmes & Hall 12-0 ... G. Moore (7) 88  
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John Goodbody on Steve Coppell, football player-turned-long-distance runner

# Marathon man's long road from Manchester United



Steve Coppell, second from left, training alongside Beverley Nicholas, the Arsenal representative, and Eamonn Martin, the winner of the 1993 London Marathon.

**S**teve Coppell has a vendetta against long-distance running. Eight months after he retired as a professional footballer in 1984, after a career which included 42 England caps, he ran a half-marathon in Cheshire. He did not train and his injured left knee, which had ended his playing career, could well have buckled underneath him.

He recalls that, at ten miles, he "hit the wall" and could scarcely put one foot in front of another. "The crowd really tried to help. You do not want them to see you in that condition." He finished, however, in 1hr 45min and an ambition was born. "Since then, I have always wanted to get my own back on the marathon," he says.

On April 21, Coppell, a former Manchester United player, will be given his chance when he runs in the Flora London Marathon. He will be representing both the charity Sport Aiding Medical Research for Kids (SPARKS) and Crystal Palace, where he works as director of football.

Runners from about 100 professional clubs, wearing their own club strip, are

among the record number of 39,000 competitors who have been accepted for the event. Prizes will be given to the first club runner from each league to finish and also to the entrant who raises the most amount of money for their charity.

The football players themselves will not be competing. Running a marathon is scarcely the best preparation for the climax of the season, when teams will be husbanding their reserves for games, which will determine promotion and relegation.

So the responsibility lies with non-playing staff and team supporters.

Coppell is still suffering from an arthritic knee and has difficulty in the stopping and turning, accelerating and braking, which form so much of the game. Steady-state running is less awkward and,



Pounding the grass: Coppell and Martin

since the second week in January, Coppell, 40, has been running steadily. His first outing was 23 minutes. "It was awful," he says. He had planned to train five days a week and rest for two. However, he found this too much and now runs on alternate

days. He always runs on grass — a wise precaution given the state of his knee — usually round Richmond Park or Woodgate Park golf club. "Richmond Park is lovely. A lap is about eight miles. Before the marathon, I hope to do three laps. Every run is different. Sometimes an hour will breeze by. Frequently, I will work out in my mind lists of things to do."

The challenge of the marathon is enormous, although it is a one-off for me. Footballers are now better athletes than they were and their preparation is more of a science, but the performance of long-distance runners still impresses me."

Coppell says that, without any conscious effort, he is now craving healthier foods rather than "garbage". "When you are preparing for a marathon, you do think a bit more. I have always been renowned for buying fish and chips." He believes in listening to his body and adjusts his training accordingly, but he still writes down what he is planning to do. He is hoping to complete the race in under four hours "unless my knee blows up".

**I**f Coppell is coaching himself, Arsenal have the advantage of receiving advice from Mel Batty, the former ten-mile world record-holder and the man who guided Eamonn Martin to his victory in the 1993 London Marathon. Batty, an avid Arsenal supporter, and Alan Sefton, the club's sports development officer for the local community, have launched a joint effort to get the best from their representative, Beverley Nicholas.

A former sprinter at Leyton Manor School, she is training three times a week: a two-hour steady run with Sefton round the parks near Highbury and two shorter sessions.

Nicholas, 26, an aerobics teacher and administrator at Arsenal's sports centre, says: "I am enjoying the running, despite the recent cold." Her coaches seem to have been reluctant to depress her buoyant spirits. "I have not yet been told what the most difficult thing is about the marathon."

The event seems to be attracting former professional players who have retired through injury problems. Shaun Gore, 27, the former Fulham and Halifax player, will be representing Chelsea for whom he works as a community officer. He and his two assistants, Michael Cole and Christopher Harris, will be raising money for the British Diabetic Association. Shaun's sister, Jenny, suffers from diabetes.

Shaun says: "When we decided in November that we would try the marathon, we decided we would do it for a charity. It gives us incentive. If we can raise £1,000, we will go

Gore, at 6ft 4in, is robustly built, but he has a damaged anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, so he has to be careful not to strain his leg with the pounding on the streets. His injury caused him to retire from professional football five years ago.

"I have not found too much difficulty with sore knees. It is more the boredom on the long runs," he says. He also has difficulty fitting the sessions into his work schedule, in which he organises coaching courses and community work for the club. "However, I feel drained if I have not been for a run."

It is this hunger to train that participants in the event should also feel as they prepare for April 21.

"Having got to know them in the run-up to the championships.

Warden Owen will be emphasising the importance of confidence. "They were erratic in Miami because they were finding out their position in the fleet," Warden Owen said. "Every day I was saying: 'Just get your confidence up and sail'."

□ Samantha Brewster, who is attempting to become the first woman to circumnavigate the world solo against the prevailing winds and currents, is having difficulties with the generator on board *Health Insured*. The 6ft cutter's fuel consumption has increased to the point where Brewster, at present in the Southern Ocean, could run out before her voyage is complete.



to Ken Bates or Matthew Harding to see if they can match it." The trio train separately, although there is a great deal of banter each morning between them when they review the previous night's training.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
There were two points in the play on this hand.

Dealer West North-South game Total points scoring

♦K864	
♦983	
♦A84	
♦A62	
♦AQJ1081	♦32
98	♦Q4
♦97852	+103
97	♦KQJ1084
♦93	
♦VAK10762	
♦KQJ	
♦9852	

W N E S  
2S (1)  
Pass 4H Pass 3H

Contract: Four Hearts by South  
(1) Weak: 6-10, six card suit.

What should declarer do on the club lead? As the cards lie it is best to take the first round with the ace, and after drawing two rounds of trumps lead up to the king of spades. As West only has one club, declarer is able to get a club away on the king of spades.

In practice my partner, Steve Lodge, played low on the club. I think that is correct — the clubs are more likely to be 52 than 6-1. However, here that enabled East to win and give his partner a club ruff.

After ruffing the club West continued with ace and queen of spades. Declarer won in dummy, discarding a diamond, and played the nine of hearts. East, of course should duck this, and if he does declarer is in an awkward quandary as to whether to play East for the remaining three trumps. However, East put in the queen of hearts and now when West showed out

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## Soling crew get wind of medal with Italian win

Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent,  
on a British trio with high Olympic hopes

**B**ritain's Olympic Soling team of Andy Beadsworth, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead gave their medal prospects at the Games in the United States this summer a considerable boost with a convincing win at the Italian pre-Olympic regatta at Allassio over the weekend.

The team, led by Beadsworth, the three-times national match-racing champion, produced a dazzling start to record three wins in a row. They took a premature start in the fourth race, but finished with two fourths and two seventh places to clinch overall victory.

Although this was a relatively small fleet of 28 boats, it included five former world champions, among them Jochen Schuman, of Germany, who finished second, and Jesper Bank, of Denmark, the 1992 Olympic champion, who was third.

Also in the fleet were the brothers Luis and Manuel Doreste, of Spain, a country using the regatta as its Olympic selection trial. Marc Bouet, the leading French yachtsman, and the best teams from Eastern Europe, who will race against Beadsworth in the European Olympic qualifier in San Remo in a month.

Despite his proven record, especially as a match-racer, Beadsworth is still relatively inexperienced in the Solings. At the Miami Olympic classes in January, he was twelfth overall in a competitive fleet but seemed to lack confidence.

Eddie Warden Owen, who coaches the trio, identified at that time not only the confidence issue but also problems with changing gear, especially on the first beat, to make the best of wind shifts or changes in wind strength.

Warden Owen was delighted with the performance at Allassio. "We talked about reacting quickly to difficult situations," he said yesterday. "They've identified that and worked on it. The good thing is that they are flexible in terms of what they want to achieve.

"Having got to know them in the run-up to the championships.

Warden Owen will be emphasising the importance of confidence. "They were erratic in Miami because they were finding out their position in the fleet," Warden Owen said. "Every day I was saying: 'Just get your confidence up and sail'."

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Sudden death

Alexander Alekhine, who died 50 years ago this year, is the hero and role model for world champion Garry Kasparov. Kasparov has written that he was fascinated by Alekhine's games because "his attacks erupted like thunderstorms from a clear sky".

In the early 1930s Alekhine secured a sensational series of tournament victories, sometimes outdistancing his rivals by colossal margins. Such events included the tournaments at San Remo 1930, Bled 1931, London and Bern 1932 and Zurich 1934. In the last named of these Alekhine dealt a sudden death blow involving a spectacular queen sacrifice to one of his predecessors as world champion, the great master Emanuel Lasker.

White: Alexander Alekhine  
Black: Emanuel Lasker  
Zurich 1934

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 c5  
2 c4 e6  
3 Nf3 Nf6  
4 Bf4 Be7  
5 e3 Nc6  
6 e4 d5  
7 Rc1 g6  
8 Bc3 Qd4  
9 Bc4 Nc6  
10 Bc7 Cg7  
11 Ne4 Nf6  
12 Ng3 e5  
13 O-O exd4  
14 Nf5 Qd8  
15 Nc3 d4  
16 Bb5 Bb6  
17 Nd5 Qd6  
18 Qd6 Ned7  
19 Rfd1 Rad8  
20 Qd1 g6  
21 Qd5 Kg6

Diagram of final position



Victor Buerger

Another sad loss has struck the British chess community with the death of Victor Buerger, an international standard player, who had inflicted defeat on a number of world champions, and who had also shone as an organiser at top level international competitions. Mr Buerger, in his later years, was also a prominent member of the Roehampton Chess Club.

In 1927 he was the main fundraiser and organiser for the British Empire Club Tournament which was held in London. Apart from competing himself, many of the top players of the day, such as Nimzowitsch, Vidmar and Bogolyubov, competed. Buerger himself won games, but not at this event, from the world champions Alexander Alekhine and Max Euwe.

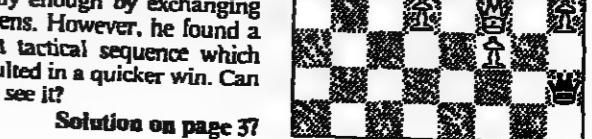
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE

Black to play. This position is from the game Matrochin — Kuzmin, USSR 1970. Black is a pawn ahead and could win easily enough by exchanging queens. However, he found a neat tactical sequence which resulted in a quicker win. Can you see it?

Solution on page 37



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## WORDSWITCHING

By Philip Howard

### RASORIAL

- a. Sharp
- b. Scratching
- c. Inquisitive

### CADUCITY

- a. Dropping
- b. Caddishness
- c. Betrayal

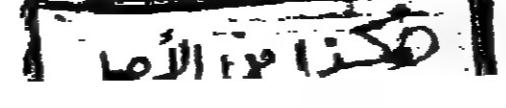
### GIMMICES

- a. Absurd faces
- b. Reels in a staysail
- c. Criminal chains

### SUPEREROGATION

- a. Inquisition
- b. Charity
- c. Superfluity

Answers on page 37



## Court of Appeal

**Safety test appropriate for prisoner's recall****Regina v Parole Board, Ex parte Watson**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Rook

[Judgment March 4]

The public safety test prescribed by section 34(4)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and applied by the Parole Board in considering the initial release of a discretionary life sentence prisoner was equally appropriate where, under section 39(4), the board reviewed the case of such a prisoner who had been released on licence but recalled on its revocation.

The independence and objectivity of the board in the exercise of its review powers under section 39(4) was not compromised by the extra-statutory practice whereby the Home Secretary's recall of a prisoner was confirmed by the board pending review.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by David Watson from Mr Justice Popplewell who had refused his application for judicial review of the Parole Board's decision, taken on the review of his case under section 39(4), not to recommend his release following his recall to prison.

In 1975 Watson had been convicted on a number of counts of buggery and indecent assault on schoolboys. He received a discretionary sentence of life imprisonment. In February 1993 he was released on licence, on terms that he be supervised by a probation officer.

Following his association with young men, and in particular a boy of 17 whose presence in his home he hid from the probation officer, he was initially warned about his future conduct and a further condition was attached to his licence.

However in March 1994, on the recommendation of the probation staff, his licence was revoked under section 39(2) of the 1991 Act and his recall to prison was considered and confirmed by the board.

**Error in extension of time****Lewis v Harewood**

Before Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Morris

[Judgment February 23]

A judge erred in granting a plaintiff a retrospective extension of time for service of a summons, *inter alia*, in failing to apply the principle that the discretion must be sparingly exercised in order to ensure compliance with time limits that were admittedly given a short duration in the interests of ensuring a speedy disposal of litigation.

The Court of Appeal so stated in allowing an appeal by Mr Andrew Harewood against an order of Judge Neville, in Exeter County Court on June 21, 1995 confirming, on appeal, the consecutive orders of two district judges who had granted the plaintiff, Mrs Claire Lewis, a retrospective extension of time for the service of a summons in a personal injury action.

Mr William Coley for the appellant defendant: Mr Martin Edmunds for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that it was common ground that Order 7, rule 20 of the County Court Rules 1981 corresponded closely with Order 6, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and that both rules were governed by the principles laid down in *Kleinwort Benson Ltd v Barbrook Ltd* [1987] AC 597.

Those provided that where the extension application was made when the time allowed for service and the primary limitation period had both expired the plaintiff must:

1 Show good reason for the grant of an extension for service of his process;

2 Provide a satisfactory explanation for his failure to apply for an extension before the validity period for service of the process had expired; and

3 Satisfy the court that the circumstances of the case, when considered as a whole with due regard to the balance of prejudice or hardship as between both parties, required its discretion to be exercised in favour of an extension.

A difference of opinion had arisen as to the extent to which it was proper to take the third principle into account when considering the first and second.

For the defendant, it had been submitted that the first and second had to be decided first as preliminary issues of fact before any question of discretion could arise. For the plaintiff it had been contended that matters of discretion fell to be considered at the exercise of his discretion at stage two.

Lord Justice Morris agreed.

Solicitors: Veitch Penny, Exeter; Mr A. Grayson, Exeter.

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**Law Report March 11 1996****Queen's Bench Divisional Court****Criminal evidence rules apply to extradition****Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another, Ex parte Levin**

Before Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Morison

[Judgment March 11]

Extradition proceedings were criminal proceedings for the purposes of section 72 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and accordingly magistrates had a discretion to admit computer printouts under section 69 of that Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an application by Vladimir Levin for a writ of habeas corpus following his commitment to Brixton Prison on September 20, 1995 by Mr R. Barrie, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, to await a decision as to his extradition to the United States to stand trial on 60 charges, including theft, forgery, false accounting, unauthorised access to a computer and unauthorised modification of computer material.

The applicant was a Russian citizen, was alleged to have used his skill as a computer programmer, inter alia, to gain access to a US bank and divert funds into his own safe accounts.

That in other than a clear case, was bound to be a difficult and anomalous judgment. But in the present balance the board was bound to give preponderant weight to the need to protect innocent members of the public against any significant risk of serious injury. That was the test which section 34(4)(b) prescribed and it was equally appropriate under section 39(4).

Had the board adopted a test more favourable to Watson, it appeared from its decision letter that it would nonetheless have held that test to be met on the present facts. But the board had applied the right test.

His Lordship rejected those submissions. It would be subversive of the review regime established by the Act if the board confined itself to reviewing the validity of the secretary of state's reasons for recall.

What mattered was the judgement of the board as an independent quasi-judicial review body, not the judgment of the secretary of state, as an arm of the executive.

He was a party to the review and of course his evidence and submissions had to be received and weighed.

But the board had to make up its own mind and give its own assessment. It would seriously undermine the integrity of the system if the board were to defer to the secretary of state's view unless it were shown to be wrong. It was the primary decision-maker.

Although his Lordship found the alternative argument more persuasive, he nevertheless rejected it because:

1 Even when released on licence, a discretionary life sentence prisoner remained subject to that sentence if the board were to defer to the secretary of state's view unless it were shown to be wrong. It was the primary decision-maker.

2 By the time the board conducted its section 39(4) review the prisoner was back in prison continuing to serve his sentence.

The right answer for the right reasons.

Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Rook delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Birnberg &amp; Co; Treasury Solicitor.

**Presumption of fertility****Figg v Clark (Inspector of Taxes)**

Before Mr Justice Blackburne

[Judgment February 14]

In ascertaining the entitlement of beneficiaries under a trust, regard could not be had to a living person's incapacity to have children and the court would ascertain entitlement on the footing that an individual remained capable of having a child until the time of his or her death.

For the purposes of section 54 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 four children born to a father who later suffered serious injuries in a hunting accident resulting in his being incapable of fathering further children became absolutely entitled to trust assets at the time of their father's death and not from the time of his accident.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by Sir Leonard Figg, the sole trustee of a 1963 settlement of shares in Liberty &amp; Co made for the benefit of the late Mr Arthur Stewart-Liberty and his family, from a determination of a special commissioner upholding in principle an estimated assessment to capital gains tax for 1990-91 in the sum of £1,450,000.

Section 54(1) of the 1979 Act, now section 71(1) of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, provides: "On the occasion when a person becomes absolutely entitled to assets all the assets forming part of the settled property to which he becomes entitled shall be deemed to have been disposed of by the trustee ... for a consideration equal in their market value".

Mr Robert Ham, QC, for the trustee, Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE said that from 1963 the trustee had held shares in Liberty &amp; Co for the children of Mr Stewart-Liberty "now living hereafter and their descendants ... as shall attain the age of 21 years or, if more than one in equal numbers, 21 years". In 1964, as a result of an accident, Mr Stewart-Liberty was paralysed from the chest down and thereafter had no realistic prospect of fathering further children. He died in 1990.

The question was whether Mr Stewart-Liberty's four children, who all attained the age of 21 years, became "absolutely entitled" as against the trustee on the occasion of the death of their father or on some earlier date.

Mr Ham argued that as from the time the father became incapable of begetting children, the class of children bearing under the settlement closed. His object in so arguing was not to avoid tax but to minimise the amount of notional gain brought into charge prior to an actual disposal of the settled property.

The proposition advanced for the Crown was that in ascertaining the beneficial entitlements of beneficiaries under a trust instrument, and in particular, the date or dates on which those entitlements become indefeasible, the court would not have regard to the impossibility of a given individual having children and would ascertain those entitlements on the footing that every individual remained capable of having a child until the end of his life.

However, evidence of incapacity might be admitted, Mr Furness said, if it was relevant and admissible to show what the testator or settlor meant by particular words or phrases used in the instrument.

It was common ground that there was a rule against admitting evidence of a person's incapacity to have children applicable to the operation of the rules against perpetuities and excessive accumulations: see *Jev v Azuley* [1787] 1 Cox 324 and *In re Dawson*[1787] 1 Cox 324 and *In re Dawson*

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# Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Market cap (\$million)	Company	Price per gt	Yield % PE	Market cap (\$million)	Company	Price per gt	Yield % PE	Market cap (\$million)	Company	Price per gt	Yield % PE	Market cap (\$million)	Company	Price per gt	Yield % PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>															
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28670 Nestle (Sp)	563 - 8 39 16.2			19320 Bell Fotyp	211 + 12 12 10.2			11120 Morris C&P	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Sust	512 - 2 19 9.8		
110610 Heublein	425 + 12 44 16.3			20520 Cadbury	111+ + 36 17.6			15120 Morris Sust	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Total	512 - 2 19 9.8		
538100 Colgate	492 + 13 38 14.5			21310 Godiva Choc	318 + 38 8.1			15210 Morris Sust	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Brn	512 - 2 19 9.8		
12920 Bank Americorp	102 + 12 34 14.5			24210 Nestle Motor	149 + 42 12.3			15310 Morris Sust	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Fin	512 - 2 19 9.8		
12930 Bank Americorp	102 + 12 34 14.5			24310 Nestle D	149 + 4 21 15.5			15410 Morris Sust	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Ind	512 - 2 19 9.8		
12930 Bank Americorp	102 + 12 34 14.5			24410 Nestle Corp	149 + 4 21 15.5			15510 Morris Sust	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Inv	512 - 2 19 9.8		
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12930 Bank Americorp	102 + 12 34 14.5			27610 Nestle Corp	149 + 4 21 15.5			18710 Morris Sust	189 + 12 7.9 15.4			17210 Unilever Inv	512 - 2 19 9.8		
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1															

## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Corfe International, DCS Group, Domestic & General, Kleinwort Development Fund, Redrow Group.  
Finals: Automated Security (Holdings), British Vins, DRS Data & Research Services, Fairley Group, Forward Thinking Technology, Hibernal Group, Hiscox, Sodexho, Hibernal Group, Loxax, Merchant Trust, Pemco Group, Refuge Group, Roxboro Group, RPS Group, Rugby Group, Spandex, Sprint-Sarco Engineering, Suter.

Economic statistics: Industrial production (January), producer prices (February).

## TOMORROW

Interims: Everest Foods, Headway, M&C Resources, Investment Trust, Pochin's, Thornton-Wicksley, Finalis: Berardin Holdings, Burn, Britain Group, Calderburn, Capital Corp, Christies International, CMG, Conlantic, Crestcare, Delta, Dunedin Income Growth, Exapartus, Hollard, Cheshire Holdings, Huntington International, Keltia Group, M&G Income Investment Trust, Parity, Prudential Corporation, Record Holdings, TI Group, Williams Holdings, Yorkshire-Tyne Economic statistics: New construction orders (January).

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: Ricardo Group, Shire Pharmaceutical, Thraperton Dual Trust, Zambia Copper Investments Finalis: Charles Baynes, BPP Holdings, Brent International, Church & Co, English China Clays, Fleming Mercantile IT, Furlong Homes, GKN Group, Saxon Companies, Hadco, Macmillan, Hockin, Williams Group, JIB Group, Lambert Howarth Group, Pacific Assets Trust, Radus, Reed Elsevier, Reed International, Roseby, Schroders, Tibury Douglas, Waste Recycling, Economic statistics: Unemployment (February), average earnings (January), labour costs (January), labour force survey (September-November).

## THURSDAY

Interims: BZW Endowment Fund, FSC High Income IT, Logistics, Sider, Television Corporation.  
Finals: Anglo American Industrial Corp, Biotraces International, Boston, British Mohair Holdings, BTR, Coats Viyella, CU Environmental Trust, Davis Service Group, Eversheds, Ley Group, Legal & General, Macmillan, Hockin, Focus Group, Mirror Group, Minerals, MTL Instruments, Pitfalls, Rockit & Colman, Steel Burrell Jones, United Blaustein (Hedge), Watmoughs (Holdings), Arthur Wood & Son.

## FRIDAY

Interims: Walker (Thomas), Finalis: Asian Communications, Baring Chrysalis, British Data Management, Claremont Garments, Fisher (James) & Sons, Gander Holdings, Johnson Group Cleaners, Molins, Mowlem (John), Perry Group, Seriti, Wembley.

## COMPANIES

## PHILIP PANGALOS

## BTR focus on long-term strategy

**BTR:** The spotlight at the diversified industrial conglomerate will be on Ian Strachan, BTR's new chief executive, who joined from RTZ and took the helm from Alan Jackson in January. Analysts will look to Mr Strachan to provide some insight into BTR's longer-term strategic issues.

BTR is likely to have witnessed a mixed trading picture. The group will have had a tough time in markets, including automotive, construction and chemicals, but should have seen an improvement in some of its industrial manufacturing and mid-cycle engineering operations. Andrew Hollins, of Kleinwort Benson, has pencilled in "clean" full-year, pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, of £1.38 billion (£1.3 billion). Kleinwort expects headline pretax profits, after exceptional disposal gains, to rise to £1.54 billion (£1.41 billion), with a final dividend of 8.7p (8.3p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £1.38 billion to £1.61 billion.

**TI GROUP:** A stronger performance from the Dowty aerospace business should help TI, the specialist engineering group, to another solid set of results when it reports tomorrow. Sandy Morris, of NatWest Securities has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £180 million (£147.8 million), with a dividend of 13p (12p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £175 million to £188 million.

The advance should be driven by solid performances from the John Crane division, which makes engineered seals; Bundy, which makes narrow-gauge tubing for brake, fuel and refrigeration systems; and Dowty, which specialises in aircraft landing gear. Dowty aerospace profits are expected to rise to £39 million (£30.2 million). Analysts also await news on possible deals.

**COATS VIYELLA:** Britain's biggest textiles firm is expected to reveal a decline in Thursday's full-year results as consumers shunned the high streets last year when the economy was sluggish and the weather exceptionally warm. After a profits warning in December, market estimates for full-year pre-tax profits range



Ian Strachan will be in the spotlight on Thursday as successor to Alan Jackson as BTR's head

between £142.5 million and £147.5 million, compared with £152.4 million previously. Attention will focus on current trading and prospects. Analysts are hopeful that the current year will see an upturn as prices for cotton and many man-made fibres have begun to ease, while consumer spending seems to be picking up.

**PRUDENTIAL:** Britain's biggest institutional investor is expected tomorrow to report final pre-tax profits of £685 million (£693 million), according to UBS, with a dividend of 15.5 (14.4p) predicted.

Market forecasts range from £740 million to £800 million. UBS says that life business remains tough, in both Britain and America, while Prudential's new venture into mortgages looks "more challenging every day".

**WILLIAMS HOLDINGS:** Progress from the fire-protection and security division should offset tough conditions at Williams's building products division, with demand for housing remaining depressed in Europe and the United States. BZW expects the

international manufacturing group to report a rise in final pre-tax profits due tomorrow, to £225.3 million (£200.3 million), with a dividend of 14.5p (13.5p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £220 million to £230 million, including an exceptional gain of about £9 million from the flotation of Cortworth.

**LEGAL & GENERAL:** The composite insurer rounds off the reporting season with its results on Thursday. Bad-weather and subsidence claims could push UK underwriting into the red, but

this will be offset by gains in investment activity. UBS expects UK life insurance profits to be £115 million, while pre-tax profits are forecast to climb to £252 million (£165 million), with a dividend of 25p (21.7p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £232 million to £275 million.

**REED INTERNATIONAL:** Continued margin improvement should help the media group report steady growth in earnings on Wednesday, with final pre-tax profits expected to advance by 14 per cent to £34 million, according to UBS. A dividend of 23.5p (21.5p) is predicted. The results for 1995 will include a maiden full-year contribution from Lexis Nexis, the academic publishing business acquired at the end of 1994. Reed Elsevier, the group's Anglo-Dutch parent, is forecast to report an increase in full-year profits to £716 million (£606 million), according to Panmure Gordon. Market forecasts for Reed Elsevier range from £705 million to £716 million.

**UNITED BISCUITS:** The McVitie's to KP snacks food group is expected to disappoint investors on Thursday with dramatically reduced annual profits, hit by a combination of rising costs and the effects of last year's £320 million disposal of Keebler, the US biscuit manufacturer. Analysts expect pre-tax profits before exceptional items to slump to between £51 million and £90 million, compared with £169 million last time. The disposal of Keebler may push United into the red. UBS forecasts pre-tax loss of £40.5 million. The dividend is predicted to be cut to 8p (15.3p).

**CORDIANT:** The effects of a traumatic year for Cordiant, the advertising agency formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, will become apparent when it reports tomorrow. Panmure Gordon expects the group to slide to a loss after the impact of severance costs associated with the departure of key executives. Panmure expects operating profits of about £5.4 million, though attention will focus on any comments about new client accounts.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## All eyes are on America

AFTER Friday's shock news of a 705,000 jump in US non-farm payrolls in February, the biggest monthly rise for 12 years and twice as big as any Wall Street economist had expected, the financial markets will be particularly sensitive to American economic statistics out this week.

These include February producer prices and consumer prices, and economists will be looking to see whether inflationary trends, which have been particularly benign during the recovery, have remained so. These figures are key background to the March 26 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, which will discuss interest rate policy.

Industrial production figures for February are due on Friday and are expected to show a very small bounce back after January's sharp, weather-related fall. However, the job figures may mean that there is a bigger rebound. On Thursday, initial weekly unemployment claims for early March are released. These figures will be closely examined for any evidence that February's non-farm payrolls may have been erratic.

In Britain, this week's statistics are expected to provide further justification for Friday's quarter-point cut in base rates. Today, industrial production figures are released for January and are expected to show a very small rise in manufacturing output. Today also sees publication of producer price data for February, which are expected to show that raw materials prices are continuing to fall.

On Wednesday, labour market data are expected to show that annual growth in average earnings remained unchanged at 3.25 per cent in January, and another fall in headline unemployment in February.

The other main focus of attention is Thursday's meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council. Speculation of lower German rates is rife, given the recent poor data on unemployment and GDP, which fell 0.5 per cent in the fourth quarter. This was the first quarterly fall for three years.

JANET BUSH

## SUNDAY TIPS

**The Sunday Times:** Buy TI Group, Mayflower, Celsis. Sell Rexam, Rugby. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Wyko, Pentland, Birse Group, Inspec. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Henlys, Perkins Foods. Sell Hay & Robertson. **The Observer:** Buy Capital Radio. Sell Cadbury Schweppes. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Platinum, Mosaic. Sell Memory Corporation.

STARTING TODAY THE TIMES IS OFFERING THREE CLASSICAL CDs PERFORMED BY THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## Key into Baroque and classical

Our first complimentary CD features the works of six composers of the Baroque and Classical period

The term "Baroque" music is a blanket one that covers a number of different styles and approaches that lasted for about 150 years from 1600 and covered all of Europe and beyond.

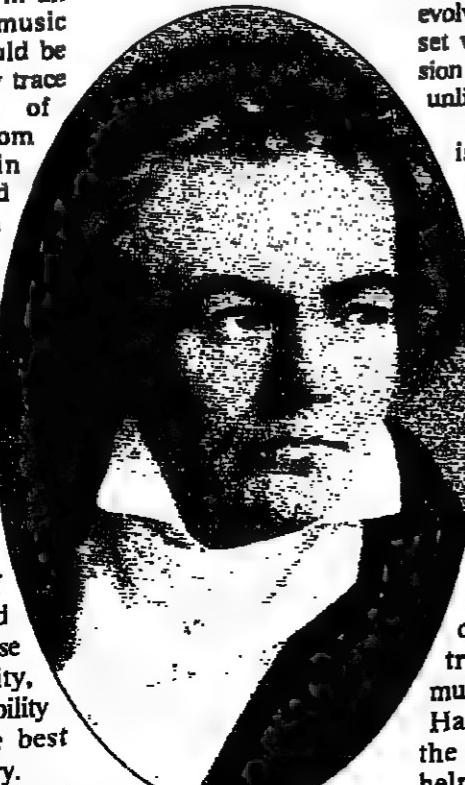
The era began when the musical forms of the Renaissance distilled themselves into well-defined types and the modern system of keys evolved. Boundaries were set within which expression of emotions could be unlimited.

The term "Classical" is often employed to describe any music that is not written in the popular idiom of the day. But we also refer to music written between 1750 and 1830 as Classic — reflecting the parallel use of the term in art, literature and architecture.

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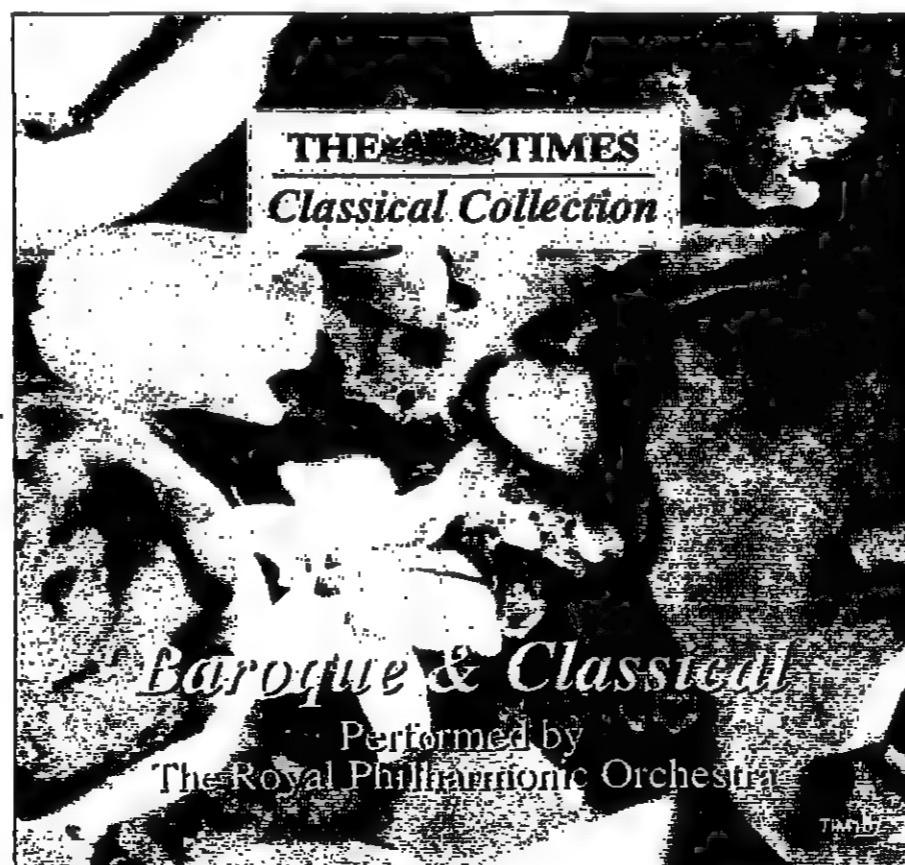
Haydn, a key figure of the classical period, helped to refine the musical forms so they could then be further improved by Mozart, his younger contemporary. He brought new depths of musical characterisation and emotion that have never been surpassed and rarely equalled.

Beethoven was a transitional figure whose music, while broadly classical, would usher in the Romantic age.



Beethoven's "Eroica" is featured on our first CD

Their music typifies the brilliance and transparency achieved by the complex, decorated vocal or solo instrumental line, soaring above the simple but firm accompaniment (see right for details of Baroque and Classical recording track listings).



## The Baroque and Classical track listing

## 1. VIVALDI

*The Four Seasons: 1. La Primavera (5.2)*

## 2. PACHELBEL

*Canon (5.34)*

## 3. BACH

*Brandenburg Concerto No.3 Allegro (5.4)*

## 4. HAYDN

*Symphony No.103 Drum Roll, 1st mvt adagio allegro con spirito (18.00)*

## 5. MOZART

*Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major (7.05)*

## 6. BEETHOVEN

*Symphony No.3 in E flat major Eroica 1st mvt allegro con brio (14.45)*

## 7. MOZART

*Violin Concerto No.5: Turkish (9.41)*

The CD has a total playing time of 57.46

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Send to: The Times Classical Collection, Newcastle upon Tyne X, NE85 10FE  
Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further offers from The Times or associated companies  1TBAC1



## Mortgage war hits bank costs

A leading US credit rating agency predicts that bank costs are rising again as the five largest UK clearing banks battle with building societies for mortgage market share.

In a survey of the 1995 record £10.6 billion pre-tax profits of the big five — HSBC, owners of the Midland, National Westminster, Barclays, Lloyds TSB and Abbey Life, Fitch, the credit rating agency, gives warning today that "short-term manoeuvring among the competitors fighting for market share means less profit volatility for some but agonising decisions for others".

Fitch says it welcome further rationalisation within the sector. The agency adds: "A strong interest by all the major players in the personal sector will result in more acquisitions of asset managers, insurance companies and building societies."

### Baltic order

British Steel has won its first order in Lithuania with a contract for 14,000 tonnes of rail track for construction of a standard-gauge line to link it with Western European systems. George Thompson, British Steel's track products' European sales manager, hopes the order, which took two years to win, will lead to more BS sales in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

### Fokker freed

Fokker Aviation, the core of the collapsed Dutch plane-maker, has been released from court protection from creditors as the prelude to re-launching it as a stand-alone company or selling it to an overseas buyer. Final talks are underway with Samsung Aerospace of Korea and China Aviation Industries. A rescue would protect 1,500 jobs at Short Brothers in Belfast, which builds wings for Fokker. Temporary funding from the Dutch Government expires on Friday.

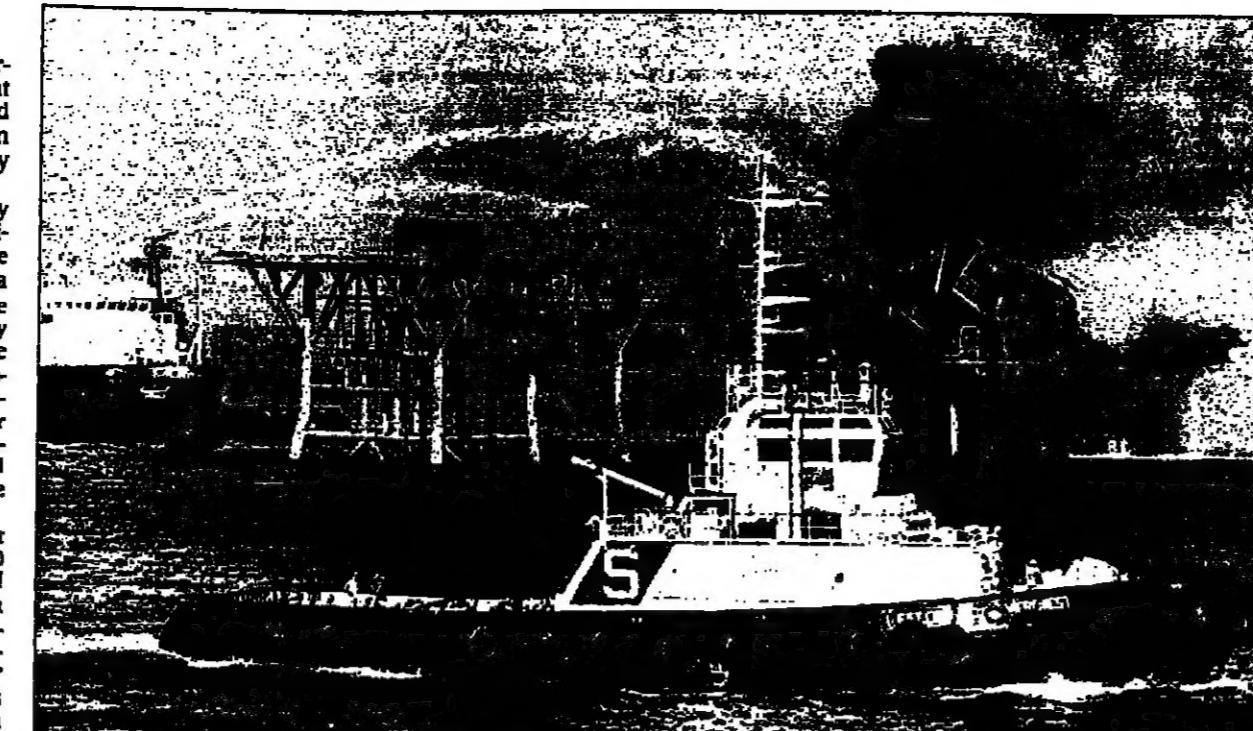
### Rating cut

Moody's the credit agency, has cut its rating on Southern Electricity bonds due in 2002 from Aa3 to Aa1, and is continuing the review for a possible further downgrade. The move reflects growing competition in energy markets and less predictable regulation.

Opec fears resumption of exports will hit already over-stretched quotas

## Iraqi oil could be back on sale soon

By CARL MORTISHED



Diplomats are confident that the first significant exports of Iraqi oil since the Gulf War could start in a few months

terms are agreed between the UN and Iraq.

Pressure is mounting on Iraq to co-operate from several quarters, including Russia, as a significant part of the funds from oil exports, about \$300 million, will be earmarked for war reparations to Kuwait

while Russia is owed billions by Saddam Hussein's regime. The UN, itself under huge financial pressure because of late contributions from member states, hopes to recoup some of its Iraqi monitoring expenses from the oil sales.

Opec members are in dis-

agreement over who should cut back production when the Iraqi oil hits the market. Venezuela is blamed for much of the current overproduction but fingers will be pointed at Saudi Arabia too. Prior to the Kuwaiti invasion, Iraq was producing some three million

bpd. The Saudis quickly increased production to their current quota level of eight million bpd. "The only way they will agree is when prices start diving," said Mr Drollas.

Opec's existing quota for Iraq of 400,000 bpd is known to be well under the country's

current production of about 500,000 barrels, consumed internally with small exports to Jordan in exchange for food. However, the country has huge untapped oil reserves including the seven billion to ten billion barrel Majnoon field. "In terms of oil prospectivity, Iraq is second only to Saudi Arabia. It is fairly unexplored," Mr Drollas said.

The wild card in the equation is President Hussein. Some analysts wonder whether he might refuse to agree with the UN. The deal has potential risks for President Hussein of more foreign control over the economy and UN officials monitoring food imports.

In spite of sanctions, Iraq has survived and managed to become self-sustaining and the Iraqi dictator has maintained some popular support. One analyst said: "What has been destroyed is the middle class. That has not been a bad thing for him as they were the opposition, university teachers, lawyers. He is not without support among the peasants."

The UN Resolution envisages oil exports via a dual pipeline to Turkey. Repairs would be needed to pumping stations damaged in the 1991 war. Iraq is believed to be arguing for exports by tanker from the Gulf, which would give them more control and not incur pipeline charges to Turkey.

## Compensation fight nears end

By JON ASHWORTH

INVESTORS who saw £10 million in savings gambled away by a crooked accountant will learn today whether their High Court fight for compensation has proved successful.

A group of 120 investors is suing Clark Kenneth Leventhal (CKL) and two of its member firms, including Clark Whitehill, over the activities of Nicholas Young, who was jailed for four years in May 1991 after squandering millions on the races.

Judgment is expected this morning. The plaintiffs allege that CKL and Clark Whitehill were negligent in putting Young in a position of authority, where he was able to carry on his activities without ade-

quate supervision. The firms deny liability.

Young, the son of a chaplain to the Queen, was senior executive officer of CKL, an international association of accountancy firms. He allegedly told investors that CKL had arranged for him to have access to a special offshore investment account, which offered interest rates of up to 2 percent per month. Interest on the funds would be tax-free.

Young, it is alleged, made full use of the CKL letterhead in his dealings with clients.

Some 126 investors deposited millions of pounds with Young between 1977 and 1990. Far from investing it as promised, Young used the money in

The case opened in the High Court on January 11.

## BET's dividend rise defence

By SARAH BAGNALL

BET yesterday forecast a surprise 27.5 per cent rise in its dividend in an attempt to fend off a £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid from Renonikil.

The 5.1p payout for the year to March 30 forms the central plank in the business services group's defence document, published yesterday, and is markedly higher than market forecasts. Analysts had pencilled in a dividend of about 4.5p although one stockbroker was predicting a payout of 4.9p.

Sir Christopher Harding, chairman at BET, said: "We believe the Renonikil offer is inadequate and does not recognise BET's current growth and future potential." John Clark, chief executive at BET,

believes that the company has an exciting future as an independent company with significant growth prospects. BET claims that Renonikil is attempting to use this growth to maintain its own 20 per cent growth targets at the expense of BET shareholders.

The document states: "Certain independent commentators are beginning to doubt Renonikil's ability to meet its 20 per cent annual growth target."

Clive Thompson, chief executive at Renonikil, was quick to respond saying "we are studying the BET defence document. I suppose in the same way as BET shareholders, in the search for new information. So far this is proving difficult."



Clark: exciting future

## Wobble fails to shake healthy market

THE market for smaller and growing companies took last Friday's stock market stumble in its stride. AIM's ability to cope with the wobble proves that underlying conditions remain healthy at a crucial time, with several companies planning to join the new market, while potential investors examine rollover tax relief possibilities.

New companies due to make their debut in the coming weeks include Cardcast, a credit card fraud detection company, and First Information

Group, an independent multimedia production company specialising in CD-Roms for the consumer market.

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, reported a considerable increase in interest in AIM stocks offering rollover tax relief. However, complex qualification rules mean that only a fraction of AIM-listed companies qualify for capital gains tax reinvestment and inheritance tax relief.

There was also renewed activity late last week from Independent Radio

Group (IRG), which made an agreed £4.54 million cash offer for Allied Radio. The bid is IRG's second deal since it was floated on AIM, having acquired a majority stake in Q96 FM, the West of Scotland broadcaster, in December.

The number of companies traded has grown to 120. Capitalisation increased to £2.61 billion, while total money raised stands at £174.4 million.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Mid cap	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/−	YTD %	P/E	Mid cap	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/−	YTD %	P/E
15.80 AMCO Corp	111	..	5.1	12.2	43.10 Le Riches Strs	268	..	7.4	25.5		
2.09 Abacus Recruit	38	- 3	5.4	16.8	26.60 Lon Ridesay As Ten	25	..				
12.90 A de Gruy	130	..	18.2	..	1.30 London Town	52	..				
12.90 African Gold	12.5	+ 1.1	..		11.50 London St	203	..	1.5	22		
5.01 Albermarle & Bd	18.5	+ 1.4	..		11.80 Macau & Oceans	28	..	2	20	27.1	
9.35 Alpine Ind	19	..	1.5		46.10 Megalomedias	107	..				
30.30 Aral St Brumby	400	+ 5	5.5	12.0	Megamedia Wts	97	..				
5.30 Am St Cr Pl	895	..	0.9		5.57 Meliss	88	..				
75.30 Antonov	105	- 4	..		11.80 Memory Corp	155	..	70			
1.89 Arion Progs	8	..	..		9.10 Monochrome Films	21	..	1	25		
11.40 Atk Control	71	..	..		1.70 Monolith	220	..				
1.10 Athene Trust	61	+ 3	..		9.08 Mooncrash	6	..				
5.76 Ballymurray	20	+ 1	..		20.80 MultiMedia	72	..	- 1	24		
5.25 Barlow Huds	43	..	..		25.10 NWF Grp	335	..				
3.05 Belcarde	43	..	..		Nash (Wm)	210	..	39			
0.99 Bowes Leis	145	..	3.9		8.73 Neil Clark	345	..	22	16.7		
5.30 Bowes Leis Ctr Pl	70	..	..		5.63 Newell Cos Cobold	205	..	23			
5.62 Brancott Huds	58	+ 3	2.5	31.0	Horizon N	73	..				
38.60 Brodastock	30	- 2	..		Noxhemes	73	..				
0.70 CCI Founder Shs	110	..	..		7.79 Ntn Petim	68	..				
3.29 Cafes Ins	115	..	2.2	9.5	0.13 Ntn Petim Wts	68	..	- 3			
6.25 Caledonian Tst	55	..	..		Ntmb Res Pps	63	..				
1.55 Capital & Wshn	2	..	..		17.90 Nursing Home	116	..	1.3	33.4		
16.90 Card Clear	75	+ 5	..		18.10 Old English Pub	98	+ 2	13			
3.39 Cassidy Bus	62	..	6.0	8.8	5.24 Opticad	85	..	22	14.1		
1.79 Cavendish W F	41	..	..		10.40 Opticore	58	..				
5.28 Centralized Group	18	..	..		16.20 Optical Care	70	..				
24.60 Celtic Pl Shs	9450	+ 200	..		18.70 Pacific Media	54	..				
24.60 Celtic Pl Shs	9450	+ 200	25	15.3	Pacific Med Pl	51	+ 12				
16.00 CI Commc(V)	119	..	..		21.00 Pan Andean Res	51	..				
7.57 Charnier Ind	71	..	..		4.31 Park Estate(Lv)	188	..				
0.99 Chin Homes	110	..	..		95.90 Pei City	395	+ 20				
13.10 ClubPartners	31	+ 1	..		29.80 Polymac Pharms	149	..				
12.20 Com de Pt Fin	510	..	..		3.62 Preston Hill E	400	..				
8.79 Constar Tel	44	+ 6	4.7	15.1	1.71 Revolution Recyclable	105	..				
13.50 County Gdns	73	..	2.1	15.1	10.60 Royalton Interiors	15	..				
2.68 City Gdns Pl	73	..	9.1	..	3.65 Ruskin Wynd	4	..				
35.60 Cirox Ind	95	+ 7	..		0.14 Rush Wys Wts	1	..				
15.90 Crown Products	95	- 1	..		5.28 SDS Salutes	61	- 9				
11.50 DTS Management	170	+ 3	4.4	4.9	1.95 Scolawood Inds	28	..				
1.20 DTS Management	34	..	..		5.05 Spire Prts	43	..				
3.58 David Glass	66	..	5.5	9.4	15.40 Scrutons	320	..</				

**S**tep forward Robin Griffiths and team at brokers James Capel. "The writing is on the wall" they wrote on February 28 in a technical analysis of share prices on Wall Street. "The signs of a potential crash are in place". They projected a fall of up to 15 per cent in May, the Dow Jones Industrial Average having continued its surge to 6,000 in the meantime. As so often, when attention is called to the writing on the wall, people reacted faster to supporting evidence.

On Friday, the Dow shed 3 per cent within hours of an unexpectedly steep rise in US employment figures in February. That is a third of the drop implied by Capel's deciphering of the charts. Not that such figures are meant to be exact. The point is that the bears in Capel's chartroom were not predicting any kind of disaster — merely a corrective slap on the wrist for over-exuberant behaviour on Wall Street.

At Thursday evening's peak, the Dow had risen 40 per cent in a year, for no terribly convincing reason. By Friday evening, shares were still up 37 per cent. Over the same period, London's FT-SE 100 index had gained a wallet-warming but less frenetic 25 per cent. If the Dow plunged all the way to 5,100, as implied by Capel, those invested in March 1995 would still be up a lip-smacking 27 per cent.

Chart reading technical analysts are the markets' licensed takers. They are allowed to predict nasty shocks because that generates busi-

## Wall Street lets the genie out of the bottle again



ness from an audience of short-term traders and users of derivatives (such as options to sell the index). Fundamental economic and financial analysts in mainstream firms queer the pitch for costly sales staff if they advise clients to do nothing for six months. Even back in the London of 1987, the one seeming hero who predicted the extended crash was swiftly retired.

On a commercial view, securities dealers prefer a permanently optimistic undertone, punctuated by short, sharp corrective slaps. While Mr Griffiths was feeding *mene, mene tekel upasim* into his PC, Merrill Lynch, the huge American broker, was giving its client horses an idyllic financial picture. "Monetary policies around the world are on an easing tack... and growth is forecast to be above the trend in 1997". The verdict for Wall Street? "Equity prices have further to rise but bonds will outperform".

Merrill's was the conventional view. Market analysts, like investors, have not adapted to an era of relatively steady, non-inflationary growth that should flatten the eternal economic cycle. In such an economy, monetary policy resumes its

textbook role of fine-tuning, trying to compensate for any signs of mania or depression.

In stock market terms, the two should also cancel each other out to a greater extent. Rates should edge up when the economy is becoming relatively sluggish — along with company earnings — and rise when earnings growth is above trend.

So long as these conditions hold, modest ups or downs in short-term interest rates should have a muted impact on inflation-sensitive long-term interest rates. The same should apply to equities. So how could a 40 per cent rise in US share prices in

year be justified? Only by having your cake and eating it, it seems.

Gains to reflect higher company earnings and falling long-term interest rates were compounded in recent months by the hope of falling short-term rates. Yet that hope rested on the Federal Reserve reacting to the business slowdown brought by its tougher policy of 1994-95. Bonds had already started reacting to improving economic figures. Interest rate futures project much higher rates two years ahead. Shares were out on a limb. So dealers reacted with panic to a single figure that might mean little, but might confirm that there was no need for the Fed to cut rates.

The 1995-96 slowdown is beginning to be reflected in profits. But shares do not look historically expensive in terms of profits. The gash gap is clear if you look at dividends. Mature blue-chip companies in the Dow yielded only 2.1 per cent dividend. That compares with a nadir above 2.5 per cent just before the crash of 1987. Small growth stocks, the darlings of recent months, often yield hardly anything.

Even allowing for a downturn in payout ratios, that should have rung alarm bells. Sadly, dividend yields

had been fashionably ignored, deemed not to matter any more. Yet Wall Street prices had been inflated by investors in mutual funds. These are like UK units trusts, which quote a dividend yield but no profit rating. Income is the only ready handle to compare their value with bonds or cash. Many funds now offer investors instant transfers between equities, bonds and money. The long term now yields 6.4 per cent. This is exciting news on Wall Street.

London should be a spectator to Wall Street's latest drama. Equivalent gilt-edged stocks yield 8.3 per cent, attractive with inflation below 4 per cent. Blue chips yield 4 per cent, although shares looked ahead of the game at the year end, ready for a correction until the Chancellor's rate cuts made his growth forecasts more credible.

The trouble with such sudden jumps, however, is that no-one can be quite sure whether the "correction" will gain its own momentum, either in America or, logically, across world stock, money and currency markets. In the rolling global market, local niceties are liable to be trampled underfoot, along with the good intentions of central bankers. Market-makers know how much they think they will have to cut prices to tempt buyers.

Cuts of 1-2 per cent would be their ideal for an instant correction. Yet each time these convenient corrections let the volatile genie out of the bottle, no-one is quite sure what it might do, or where.

### RADIO CHOICE

## Honours even in war replay

Battling with the Past. Radio 4 FM. 10.00am.

The English Civil War of the mid-17th century is fought all over again. This morning, and this time, the result is a draw. *Battling with the Past* is the historical panel game chaired by Ronald Hutton. Quite rightly, he remains impartial throughout. This cannot be said of two of the four contestants who are the present and past chairmen of the Cromwell Association; one of them even has the audacity to sport the association's crest on the microphone. To indicate how free of academic dust this tussle between the four historians is, one round is won by a nose and another by two ears. No contestant can prove or disprove the story that, as Lord Oliver punched Charles on the nose in a row over a toy.

The Monday Play: Paint Her Well. Radio 4. 7.45pm.

A writer's first radio play should not, for this reason alone, expect to be judged differently from a second or a sixth. When all is said and done, the play's the thing. But it would be doing *Jain McCutre* less than justice to say of his fantasy on the theme of revenge that it bears any of the hallmarks of art. The time-bends and plot twists in *Paint Her Well* may be a problem for you. That is why it would take more than these few lines to give a helpful précis of a highly imaginative play beyond saying that it hinges on the identity of a mysterious woman in a painting and is not set in a particular place or in a particular century.

### WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsway 6.00 Europe Today 6.30 News 6.30 The Shelf Spring Tomorrows 7.30 The Vintage Chat 8.00 News 8.15 The Queen's Message to the Commonwealth 8.15 The Greenleaf Collection 9.00 News in German 9.15 Anything Goes 9.30 Spain 10.00 News 10.30 Spain 10.30 French 10.45 China 11.00 News 11.30 Christmas 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Western Music 1.00 News 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.00 News in German 3.15 News 4.15 France 4.30 News 4.45 Italy 4.50 Europe 5.00 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 News 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Cutlery 7.25 The Queen's Message to the Commonwealth 7.30 Multicart: Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 Commonwealth 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Omnibus 10.00 News 10.30 World News 10.30 Spain 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Ed Stewart 11.45 Development 9.6 Midweek News 12.30pm Folk Routes 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.15 Press Review 1.15 World Rankings 1.45 Health 2.00 2.30 Sport 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 John Peel 4.00 News 4.20 Europe 5.00 News 5.30 Michael Mappin 6.00am Met Cooper

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 6.30 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Tenzin, incl 12.30 News 1.00 News 1.30 and 4.15 The Not 2.00 Merrick 3.00 Mark Goodier, incl 5.30-6.45 Newbeat, and at 6.30 The Mo 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Oasis 10.00 Marc Radcliffe 10.30 Wendy Llyod, incl 12.15am The Nite

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Alex Lester 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 2.00 Debbie Thorpe 12.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Durn 5.30 Hester Groves 6.00 The Morning Show 7.30 Melvin Laycock, with Dance Band Days, and at 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band 8.45 Humphrey Lytton 10.00 Frame It (6.15) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05m Digby Fairweather 1.00 Steve Macdonald 3.00-6.00 Alan Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 5.50 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Morning Show 6.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Across the White Line 8.00 The Monday Match FA Cup quarter-final 8.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bass 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Russell 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sam Bolger 8.00 Moz 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

### VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ. 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Stenner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horns 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Vivid (Concerto F. Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D); Comets (Le Phénix); Marvin Hordé (Under the Greenwood Tree); Slobetius (Kariele Suite); Beethoven (Overture, Leonore No 3); 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Schubert (String Quartet No 11 in A); Tchaikovsky (Oriagn's Aria); Eugene O'Neill, Act 1); Scriabin (Piano Concerto in F sharp minor)

Small firms are also sceptical about the state of the patent system. They believe it has largely lost its authority in the UK, with many now going so far as to register their innovations under foreign and especially US patents, believing they offer more protection.

□ People: Deregulating employment law for small firms is seen as a key objective — so ministers are right to claim they are acting on small companies' wishes in considering new moves in this area. But dissatisfaction with the Government is high on people issues — with the standard of education, with school-leaver skills, with business qualifications, and especially with vocational ones such as NVQs, seen as not rigorous enough, not known about, not understood nor rated.

Small firms believe the operation of regulation should embody the spirit rather than the precise letter of the law, and the Government should offer help and advice with compliance — rather than penalties for not doing so. As part of that, small firms believe business regulatory bodies

ten clearly in understandable English and applied fairly. While small firms are not taken in by Euro-myths, European regulations are seen as particularly unfair in application — adhered to by UK companies, especially small firms, to their competitive disadvantage, since companies in other EU countries are seen to comply with them sketchily, if at all. Small firms also don't like the way the Government adds its own provisions to domestic legislation necessary to put EU regulations into UK law.

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Philip Bassett looks at what small firms want from government

## Small business's turn to bite back



Michael Heseltine's gaffe on late payments will take some explaining away

**J**ohn Major will today unveil a new package of government measures to help small businesses in Britain — which are rapidly becoming one of the key business battlegrounds before the general election.

The move, to be made at a cross-industry conference on small businesses in London, comes against the acute political controversy over small firms, after the revelation last week of ministerial letters showing Cabinet splits over proposals to remove employment protection laws from employees of small companies.

Ministers lined up for today's conference will now be on the defensive, after the public wrangle between Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Ian Lang, his successor as President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Heseltine says today's conference is the result of the "most widespread consultation with small business ever carried out in this country" — a claim also made by Labour, which has its small business conference next week.

The scale of the stakes over the issue of small business is underlined in the conclusions to a Government-backed study of small business carried out at Kingston University's small business centre, which found that "the Conservative Party's claims to have promoted enterprise through a wide range of policies designed to support small business do not appear to be widely accepted by their owners".

Stan Mendum, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business — one of the business leaders who will speak to today's gathering — said Mr Heseltine's promise of a conference at which small businesses could air grievances and a special seminar at Downing Street last September had the "potential to be a turning point for independently-owned firms". Since then, the initiative's sponsors, including banks, the CBI, IoD,

business grants are not — particularly those which are highly job-oriented. Small firms feel that grant systems favour both larger companies and inward-investing foreign firms, which are able to then wheel our electorally popular announcements of 200 or 300 new jobs, which are definitionally beyond small firms' reach. R&D grants are very popular but small firms would like to see greater help given to companies retaining their profits — and they feel strongly that a range of Government-supported initiatives, including Peppi and similar devices, persuade people to place their investment elsewhere, rather than ploughing it back into their businesses.

□ Business advice: The Government's system of one-stop Business Links are the main point of interest here. While

small business supports them, small firms are sceptical about how long they have to live, judging that they have a limited shelf-life, and like many other Government initiatives, will be replaced at some point by the new latest idea. The quality of BL business advisers is seen as low in many cases, just as the BLs are viewed as highly variable.

□ Deregulation: Small business again goes against expectations here — one of the Government's key areas of activity towards small firms. There is not the blanket opposition to regulation which some right-wingers would like to claim. Resting on commercial practice rather than ideological considerations, small business accepts there is a reason for many rules but wants regulations accompanied by reasons for them, written

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## BUSINESS

MONDAY MARCH 11 1996

BITE BACK 38  
WHAT SMALL FIRMS  
WANT FROM  
THE GOVERNMENT

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

## Telephone merger abandoned

Cable and Wireless will today confirm that hitherto secret talks about a merger with British Telecom have been abandoned.

The announcement to the London Stock Exchange follows revelations that BT chairman Sir Iain Vallance approached Brian Smith, the caretaker C&W chairman. BT would like access to C&W's extensive international fibre-optic cable network, and to share in the bright prospects for its phone businesses in Asian markets.

## Bank action

The Bank of England is under pressure to act over a report suggesting that senior executives at Hill Samuel failed to act promptly on advice that the bank needed to strengthen provisions against property loans. Last year TSB commissioned an independent report into the matter from Linklaters & Paines, the City lawyers. The results were reported to the board and the Bank of England. The Bank of England is said to be reviewing the report.

## Asian boost

Imperial Chemical Industries is to invest £200 million in India over the coming decade as part of a plan to increase sales from Asia to 25 per cent of its business within a decade. Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, said ICI would focus development on the same activities as its parent paints. Polyurethanes, acrylics and paint-whiteners.

## Jetting ahead

European planemakers are ahead in the final round of a contest being conducted by China and Korea for partners to develop a 100-seat passenger jet, the Asian Express 100. McDonnell Douglas of America and Daimler Aerospace have both been eliminated, leaving only Boeing to rival the Europeans.



A convert to European co-operation: Michael Portillo seems to have been won over by claims that costs will be cut and exports made more competitive

## Britain poised to join European arms agency

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

**MICHAEL PORTILLO**, the Defence Secretary, is expected to announce this week that Britain is joining France and Germany to create a European Armaments Agency to co-ordinate continent-wide weapons development and procurement.

Adoption of standard weapons systems by Britain and its main European allies will make it easier for armed forces to work together in peace-keeping operations such as that in Bosnia, as well as during wartime.

It will also trigger a rapid consolidation of the European defence industry, freeing British champions like British Aerospace. The General Electric Company and Vickers to form joint ventures or even mergers with continental rivals. The links should improve their competitiveness relative

to American rivals, which are beginning to enjoy enormous cost-savings after a wave of mega-mergers.

The entry-ticks for British membership of the Franco-German arms agency, set up in January, will be participation in a three-nation programme to buy 8,000 armoured personnel carriers.

Forceful lobbying by the Foreign Office and Department of Trade and Industry has reinforced Mr Portillo's own desire to kick off the agency by participating in the so-called "battlefield taxi" programme.

The decision comes in spite of an ambivalent recommendation from the MoD's equipment advisory committee, which met last Monday. Some officials fear the price of the 2,000 light armoured vehicles Britain wants will be inflated by higher manufacturing

costs for key components from France and Germany.

But directors from Vickers and GKN, the two British contenders lining up to compete with German partners for the contract, have told the MoD and DTI they believe the cost can be pared to about £500 a vehicle, compared with French and German estimates of £700,000 or more.

The National Defence Industry Council, including senior figures such as Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace; Lord Prior, chairman of the General Electric Company; Sir David Lees, chairman of GKN, and Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive of Vickers, threw its full weight behind British membership of the agency at its meeting of February 28. The council has set up a working group to resolve difficulties

over granting export licences and ensuring security of supplies in time of war.

Britain has shown a mounting determination to join the European Arms Agency over the past year. Contacts were initiated by Roger Freeman, then Procurement Minister.

Although widely perceived as a sceptic on European integration, Mr Portillo, has apparently been convinced by claims that it will cut costs and make exports more competitive. When MoD officials argued that European collaboration on the armoured vehicle programme offered few advantages, he is said to have told them: "If you don't like this programme you'd better find another one."

Germany and France each require about 3,000 wheeled personnel carriers to replace ageing equipment used by

their forces. Britain wants 2,000, mainly to replace VFR434, a lightweight predecessor to the GKN Warrior, which has been successful in Bosnia and the Gulf War. British industry bosses say the vehicle would have excellent export prospects to replace many of the 80,000 American MILVs in use worldwide.

Vickers has already agreed to collaborate with Thyssen-Henschel, the German tank-maker, on the project, known in Britain as MRAV. GKN is in talks with Krauss-Maffei, builder of the German Leopard tank. Avis is expected to team with MAK of Germany to bid.

It now appears that the winner of an Anglo-German procurement contest will then team with Giat, the French state armaments group, to complete detailed designs.

BY SARAH BAGNALL

CITY dealers in London are braced for a 50-point fall in the FT-SE 100 index today in response to the sharp 17-point drop on Wall Street last Friday.

The FT-SE 100 fell 47.9 points to 3,710.3 in spite of a quarter-point cut in base rates, and further falls are expected today as the bulk of the plunge on Wall Street took place after the London market closed on Friday evening.

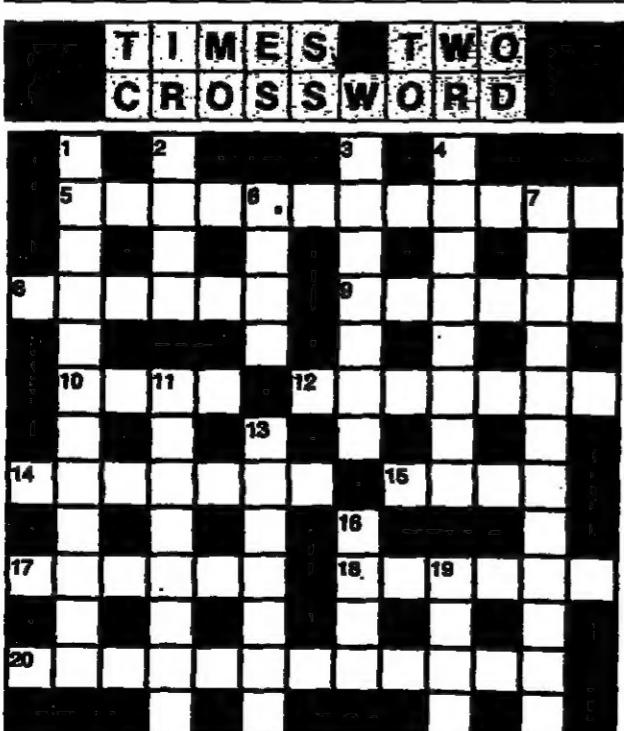
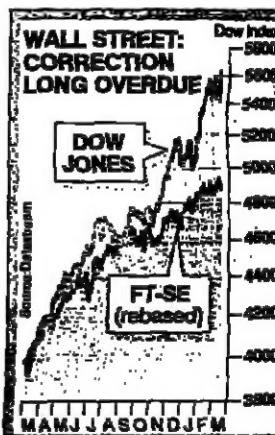
Finance Ministry officials in Japan were believed to have held talks over the weekend in an effort to prevent any abrupt knock-on effect on the Tokyo stock exchange when it opens today.

Friday's fall in the Dow Jones was the third heaviest in Wall Street's history and followed stronger than expected February job figures.

Mr Meinhertshagen said: "Wall Street has been defying gravity for some time. A correction has been expected for a while." There is still some latitude for Wall Street to fall further and its opening later today will impact on afternoon trading in London.

Dealers will also be keeping a close eye on the US bond market, which on Friday suffered its worst fall since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. If prices continue to tumble there is a slim chance that some hedge funds may be forced into early liquidation.

Graham Searjeant, page 39



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## ACROSS

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- SOLUTION TO NO 725
- ACROSS: 1 John 3 Milksoop 8 Marxism 9 Crisp 10 Laiy 11 Nogsey 13 Gunpowder 17 Abreast 19 Calve 20 Ripe 22 Unkempt 23 Stealth 24 Type
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## Lloyd's aiming to boost £2.8bn offer

By SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYD'S of London is set to intensify attempts to persuade the various contributors to its £2.8 billion settlement offer to increase their contributions.

Names' representatives claim that the offer must be increased in order to ensure that it is accepted by the market's 34,000 names in a vote at the market's annual meeting, on July 15.

Today, names will receive estimates of what they need to pay to settle all their debts with the society. The figures are struck after deducting their share of the settlement offer.

The statement sent to David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman and a name, shows that he does not qualify for any of the £2.8 billion. "I don't qualify for any debt credits or litigation funds," he said. Mr Rowland, who waived £5,984 under Lloyd's previous £900 million settlement initiative in 1993, is in loss, but the losses do not exceed his funds at Lloyd's.

The statements are only estimates of a name's bill. Final figures depend on the reserving needed for Equitas, a reinsurance company being set up by Lloyd's. Figures will also vary if the settlement package grows.

Negotiations to increase the package are under way, but will start in earnest only once Equitas figures are finalized.

The Association of Lloyd's Members says the £2.8 billion pot "must be increased to reduce the pain for friendly hit names and to avoid penalising unduly those who have enabled Lloyd's to trade on to a profitable future".

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